This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES
3 3433 08245519 1

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
R L

Digitized by Google

FORTRESS AND CITY OF GUZNI.

Published by Henry Colburn, Great Marlborough Street, 1841.

Digitized by Google

[illegible]IVE YEARS IN INDIA;

COMPRISING

A [illegible] OF T[illegible] IN THE [illegible] OF [illegible]
A VISIT TO THE COU[illegible] OF RUNJ[illegible] SING,
A RES[illegible] IN THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS, AN ACC[illegible]
[illegible] EXPEDI[illegible] TO CABUL AND AFFGHANISTAN,
VOYAG[illegible] OWN THE I[illegible],
AND JO[illegible] [illegible]LAND TO ENGLAND.

BY

[illegible]NRY EDWARD FANE, Esq.

[illegible] CAMP [illegible] COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN INDIA

Temple at Kugna.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:
[illegible]BURN, GREAT MARLBOROUGH STREET.

MDCCCXLII.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

FIVE YEARS IN INDIA;

COMPRISING

A NARRATIVE OF TRAVELS IN THE PRESIDENCY OF BENGAL,
A VISIT TO THE COURT OF RUNJEET SING,
A RESIDENCE IN THE HIMALAYAH MOUNTAINS, AN ACCOUNT OF
THE LATE EXPEDITION TO CABUL AND AFFGHANISTAN,
VOYAGE DOWN THE INDUS,
AND JOURNEY OVERLAND TO ENGLAND.

BY

HENRY EDWARD FANE, Esq.

LATE AIDE-DE-CAMP TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN INDIA.

Temple at Kugna.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:
HENRY COLBURN, GREAT MARLBOROUGH STREET.

MDCCCXLII.

Digitized by Google

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
532569
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
R 1911 L

NEW YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

LONDON:
PRINTED BY MOYES AND BARCLAY, CASTLE STREET,
LEICESTER SQUARE.

Digitized by Google

CONTENTS

TO

THE SECOND VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

PAGE

Lord Auckland returns the Visit of Runjeet Sing — Beautiful Scene — Inspection of the Grand Army of the Indus — Grand Festival — Nautch Girls — Grand Review — Curiosity of Runjeet Sing — Evening Entertainment — Review of Runjeet's Troops — Leave-taking — March continued — A Tiger — Detachment rejoins the Commander-in-chief — A Native Chief — Visit to Him — Order of British India — Embark on the Sutlej 1

CHAPTER II.

Enter the Indus — Sulimanian Mountains — A Halt — Arrival of Sir A. Burnes — Impending War with Scinde — Jungle Partridge — Native Troops — March of the Division resumed — Visit of a

Digitized by Google

PAGE

Native Chief—The Shah's Army—Unexpected News—Cabul Horse-Dealers—Rohree—Its beautiful Scenery—Island of Bukkor—Great Natural Curiosity—Key of the Indus—Visit from a Native Chief—A Mistake—Scene of Confusion—Cession of Bukkor to the British Army—The Ameer of Hyderabad—Visit to a Native Minister—Native Curiosity—Threatened Attack—Unexpected Submission of Hyderabad and Return of the Brigade 25

CHAPTER III.

Return of Sir H. Fane's Brigade—Disappointment—Passage of the River—Magnificent Scene—Change of Plans—A Halt—Preparations for Departure—Orders to Advance—Speculation—Arrival at Shikarpoor—Its Bazar—Extraordinary Scene—A Struggle for Supremacy—Shah Suja—His Character—Continued March—Desolate Country—The Mirage of the Desert—No Water—Improved Prospects—Approach to the Mountains of Beeloochistan—False Alarms 48

CHAPTER IV.

Halt at Bagh—Duck-Shooting—March over the Mountains—Change of Temperature—Halt

Digitized by Google

PAGE

—Want of Supplies—Curious Tomb—Desertion by the Natives—Caught and Flogged—An Awkward Predicament—Celebrated Pass of Bolan—Attack by the Beeloochees—Graves of Murdered Travellers—Great advantages of Camel Artillery—Difficulties of the March—Miserable Prospect—Dreadful Sufferings of the Camp-Followers—Loss of Baggage and Cattle—Want of Forage—Valley of Shawl—Hail and Snow-Storms—Alarming State of the Army—The Hill-Robbers 68

CHAPTER V.

News of Sir John Keane—Chase and Attack of the Hill-robbers—Quetta—Summary Justice—March on Candahar—Difficulties of an Unknown Country—Encampment at Kuchlack—Fighting, a Cure for Sickness—Improving Prospects—Dreadful Mortality among the Horses and Camels—Stoppage in a Pass—Great Sufferings of the Army—Fall over a Precipice—Extraordinary Escape of Men and Horses—Great Exertions of the Men—Termination of the Pass—Encampment at Dundi Golai 91

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER VI.

PAGE

Luxury of a Clean Shave—A Halt—Approach of the Affghan Army—They turn the Course of a Stream—The Talleyrand of the East—Great Suffering for want of Water—Retreat of the Affghan Army—Plenty after Want—Candahar abandoned by the Native Chiefs—No Chance of a Battle—Splendid Situation of Candahar—Influence of the British Name—Entry into Candahar—Riches of the Valley—Character of the City—Enthusiastic Reception of the Shah—Grand Inspection of British Troops by the Shah—Grand Entertainments 113

CHAPTER VII.

Intense Heat—Change of Weather—Dreadful Murder of a British Officer—Arrival of Supplies—Resumption of the March—Departure from Candahar—A suspicious Rencontre—Hard Duty—False Reports—A famous Arrow-shot—A difficult Pass—Kelât—Change of Climate—Doubtful Policy—Night Marching—News of Dost Mahommed—An Impudent Message—Plentiful Supplies—Execution of a Native—

Digitized by Google

PAGE

Approach to Ghuznee — A Skirmish — Prospect of a Battle — Arrival at Ghuznee — A long Shot — Commencement of the Attack of Ghuznee — Perilous Situation of the Army 134

CHAPTER VIII.

Preparations for Attacking Ghuznee — A Skirmish — Order for the Attack of the Fortress — Admirable Arrangement for a *Coup de Main* — Description of the Attack — Awful Silence — Terrific Explosion — Desperate Resistance of the Garrison — Entry of the Outer Town — Surrender at Discretion — Plunder of the Town — Immense Importance of the Triumph — Loss on Both Sides — Repairing Damages — Tomb of the Sultan Mahmoud — Sale of the Plunder..... 162

CHAPTER IX.

Departure from Ghuznee — Death of a Favourite — March for Cabul — Beautiful Valley — Artillery of Dost Mahommed — Profusion of Fruit — Encamped near Cabul — Triumphal Entry into Cabul — Reception of the Shah — Description of the City and Palace — The Zenana — The Shawls and Furs of Cabul —

Digitized by Google

PAGE

Death of Colonel Arnold—His Funeral—Departure of the Bombay Army—Fox-hunting in Affghanistan—Dost Mohammed again—Leave-taking—Deposition of Kurruck Sing .. 179

CHAPTER X.

Departure with Colonel Wade from Cabul—Arrival of Treasure—Mountain Pass—Giant's Tomb—Attack by Hill-Robbers—The Snowy Mountains of Sulimàn—Mountain Stream and Bridge—Twenty-three Camels lost—Magnificent Garden in the Desert—Mohammed Akbar Khan—A Day's Halt—Jellalabad—The Cabul River—The Three Passes—Dacca—The celebrated Kyber Pass—Impregnable as a Key to India—Change of Climate—Descent into the Plains—City of Peshawer—Visit to the European Governor—Splendid Palace and Entertainment .. 197

CHAPTER XI.

March continued on the River Cabul—Passage of the Rapids—Attock—The Throne of Nadir Shah—Beautiful Gates of the Town—Excellence of Indian Servants—Embarkation on the Indus—Extreme Danger of the Voyage—Rapids and Whirlpools—Dangerous Friends

Digitized by Google

PAGE

—Fort of Mukoor—Collecting Gold Dust—Town of Mookhud—Tricks upon Travellers—Halt at Karabaugh—Noble Bannian Tree—Great Salt and Alum Mines—Native Chiefs—Voyage continued—Confluence of the Sutlej with the Indus 219

CHAPTER XII.

Voyage down the Indus continued—A Rencontre—Arrival at Rohree—Indian Hospitality—Voyage Resumed—The Sehwan Range of Mountains—Arrival at Hyderabad—New Arrangements—Tatta—Much ado about Nothing—Embark for Bombay—First Night at Sea—Cutch and Scinde—Coasting—Beautiful Country—Malabar Point—Bombay Harbour—Meetings with Friends—The Governor's Levee—Wealth of the Parsees—Society at Bombay—Embark for England 242

CHAPTER XIII.

On board the Zenobia—Start for England—Bad Accommodations—A Narrow Escape—Sameness of Steaming—Harbour of Aden—Camel-riding—A Pleasant Day—On Board again—The Straits of Babel Mandel—The Red

Digitized by Google

PAGE

Sea — Mocha — No Pilot — Disembark at Cossier — Journey across the Desert — Travelling Arrangements — Luxuries of Water after Drought — First View of the Nile — Ruins of Thebes — Great Temple of Carnac 260

CHAPTER XIV.

Ruins of the great Temple of Carnac — Town and Ruins of Luxor — Western Thebes — Medinet Abou and the Memnonium — The Tombs of the Kings — Journey resumed — Native Extortion — Temple of Denderah — Rich Cultivation of the Nile — Character of the Egyptians — A Turkish Bath — Excavations at Beni Hassan — First View of the Pyramids — Arrival at Cairo — Hill's Hotel — The Lions of Cairo — Antiquities — Pasha's Garden — A Day at the Pyramids — Egyptian Taste in Gas-lighting 276

CHAPTER XV.

Quit Cairo — Slow Work — The great Mahmoodieh Canal — Pompey's Pillar — Arrival at Alexandria — Noble Square — Strange Contrasts — Visits to the Pasha — His Resemblance to Runjeet Sing — Visit to the Dockyard — The Turkish and Egyptian Fleets — A Turkish Man-

Digitized by Google

PAGE

of-War—English Steamer—Start for Marseilles—Arrival at Malta—Quarantine—The Lazaretto—An Arrival—Horace Vernet—Protestant Place of Worship—Visit from the Governor 294

CHAPTER XVI.

Embark for Gibraltar—Rough Weather—The Gulf of Lyons—A Gale—Arrival at Gibraltar—The New Mole—The Club-house Hotel—An Invite—Capital Mess—Steeple-chase at Gibraltar—Fatal Accident—Excavations of the Rock—Embark on board the Royal Adelaide—Arrival at Cadiz—Start for Lisbon—Anchor in the Tagus—Sight Seeing—Re-embark—Vigo Bay—An Accident—Cape Finesterre—The Bay of Biscay—Conclusion 307

Digitized by Google

ILLUSTRATIONS

TO

THE SECOND VOLUME.

FORTRESS and City of Guzni ..... *Frontispiece.*
Part of the Fleet on the Indus..... *Page* 24
Mud Fort and Town of Quetta 94
Candahar, from the Bengal Camp 126
City and Valley of Cabul..... 184
Bala Hissar, or Shah's Palace, at Cabul..... 186
Shah Shead Durwaza 194
Fort of Allee Musjid..... 214
Fort of Jumrood 216
Boat from Attock 234

VIGNETTES.

Temple at Kugna ..... *Title.*
Mohammed Akbar Khan's House 206
South Gate of the Great Temple of Jupiter, at Western Thebes..... 279

Digitized by Google

FIVE YEARS IN THE EAST.

CHAPTER I.

Lord Auckland returns the Visit of Runjeet Sing—Beautiful Scene—Inspection of the Grand Army of the Indus—Grand Festival—Nautch Girls—Grand Review—Curiosity of Runjeet Sing—Evening Entertainment—Review of Runjeet's Troops—Leave-taking—March continued—A Tiger—Detachment rejoins the Commander-in-chief—A Native Chief—Visit to Him—Order of British India—Embark on the Sutlej.

November 30th.—The Governor-general returned Runjeet's visit. We met his lordship at the bridge of boats over the Sutlej, having gone so far in Sir Henry's carriage, who looked at his boats on the way. At the bridge we mounted our elephants, and,

Digitized by Google

escorted by two regiments of cavalry, moved at the state pace (a snail's gallop) up to Runjeet's tents, which were pitched about half a mile beyond the bridge. The Governor-general was received by Kurruck Sing, the eldest son, at the end of the street of troops, formed by nine battalions of Runjeet's regular infantry and cavalry. The scarlet semianas and kanauts of Runjeet's pavilions looked beautiful from the opposite bank of the river, and when nearer, the illusion was not dispelled; for, in addition to all the tents with shawl carpets and ceilings that he had at Lahore, he had several new scarlet tents pitched, and the whole of the interior lined with Seikhs, in their picturesque and variegated dresses. It was really a beautiful scene, and if one had not to think of a ride home with the thermometer standing at 110°, it would have been agreeable. In the evening I dined with an immense party given by the Governor-general, where we sat down more than forty to dinner.

Digitized by Google

December 1*st*.—This morning was fixed for the first field-day of the grand army of the Indus, small in comparison to the armies in the war time, but the largest that has been for some time assembled in India, and at daylight we mounted our horses to accompany the General to the scene of action. We found the troops drawn out in close column of battalions, stretching over ground of nearly two miles in length, and forming a truly magnificent scene—twelve regiments of infantry, with a troop or battery of artillery between every three regiments; with two regiments of cavalry upon each flank, and one regiment of infantry and Skinner's horse (800 strong) as a reserve in rear of the line. The artillery mounted twenty-four pieces of ordnance; and the grand total in men was according to the following return, which is given exclusive of sick, camp-duties (which take 1500 men daily), and all other casualties.

Digitized by Google

Return of Troops present on the Ground at the Field-day, on the 1st December, 1838.

1st Division. Major-General Sir W. Cotton, *present.*	1st Brigade, Brigadier Sale *commanding.*	H.M. 13th L.I. ...	545
		16th N.I. ...	598
		48th N.I. ...	592
	2d Brigade.	31st N.I. ...	405
		42d N.I. ...	547
		43d N.I. ...	575
	3d Brigade.	H.M. 3d Buffs....	519
		2d N.I.	556
		R.W. 27th N.I. ...	282
		Total, 1st division.	4619
2d Division. Major-Gen. Duncan, *present.*	4th Brigade.	European Regt. ...	651
		35th N.I. ...	619
		37th N.I. ...	435
	5th Brigade.	5th N.I.	502
		20th N.I. ...	403
		53d N.I.	558
		Total....	3168
Caval.-Brigr. Arnold,	1st Brigade, Brigr. Arnold *commanding,*	H.M. 16th Lancers	467
		2d Lt. Caval.	451
		3d Lt. Caval.	353
		Total....	1271
		Skinner's Horse ...	750
		Artillery, 24 pieces of ordnance	250
		Grand Total ..	10,098

The field-day went off, on the whole, tolerably well, though some of the brigadiers, never having before commanded bri-

Digitized by Google

gades, were not quite as easy in their seats as they might have been. But as this was only a rehearsal for Monday, and no one but our own people were present, it did not much signify.

After a long and hard day's work, when we calculated on having a quiet evening, behold, comes an order at the eleventh hour for us to be ready to attend Sir Henry to a Nautch and firework entertainment at the Maha Rajah's tents. The notice did not come till four, and at half-past we were under way in the General's carriage to the river. On arriving at the bridge of boats he mounted his elephant, and we, doing the same, followed to the Rajah's tents. The Governor-general had arrived some time before, being at a secret conference with the Maha Rajah. After some little disturbance on the part of the elephants, we landed both ourselves and the ladies safe in the durbar. The usual scene was going on; half-a-dozen sets of Nautch girls were dancing and screaming

Digitized by Google

in the front, with no one attending to them; fireworks blazing and shooting in all directions; and the Maha Rajah seated on his chair, with the great men on either side, as perfectly unconcerned as if he had been there all his life. After staying about an hour with him, a move was made, and we got home to a late dinner about half-past nine.

December 2d.—For the first day for many weeks allowed to lie in bed after five o'clock. For the General, though he got extra sleep, it was no holyday; for so many presentations had been put off from day to day, that the arrears came down heavily this morning.

December 3d.—The grand field-day had been fixed to take place this morning; and accordingly at daylight we mounted and rode to the ground, about three miles from our camp. A mist hung heavy on the ground, and I began to fear nothing would be seen; but as the sun rose the mist followed his example, and by the time

Digitized by Google

the Maha Rajah arrived, the day was as fine as we could wish. Then Runjeet Sing went down the whole line, poked between every gun, asked all manner of questions, and was, in short, in the highest possible spirits. After having done this he departed to the flag-staff in the centre, and the manœuvres commenced. The General had intentionally made them as simple, both for the purpose of adapting them to the military capacity of the Seikhs, and for the purpose of keeping the European troops as little as possible in the sun. The intention was fully answered; and at the conclusion, the whole marched past, beginning with the cavalry, and finishing with Skinner's horse, 800 strong, Sir Henry himself leading his army. Nothing could be better; the European troops setting a brilliant example. The review was at an end by half-past ten, after which we adjourned to the Governor-general's tents pitched on the ground, to which all the ladies with the army, and the generals,

Digitized by Google

had been asked. It was a very brilliant affair, and we sat down fifty to table.

December 4th.—Allowed for once in a way to remain quietly in bed, without parade or noise of any kind. In the evening Runjeet came to look at the park of heavy battering artillery, which seemed much to excite his admiration. He wished particularly to know what might be the cost of an eighteen-pounder, and whether it required any particularly different construction from smaller cannon. After looking at each and all of the train, he rode off to the Governor-general's camp, to be present at a Nautch and fireworks given by Lord Auckland. We started off home, and, after dressing and getting the dust off, proceeded in the same direction. The scene on arriving was remarkably pretty. The outer kanauts (canvass walls), as well as the inner, had been taken down, and a considerable space surrounded with semianas, and in the space within them, filled without, fireworks were discharged.

Digitized by Google

Within the durbar were seated Runjeet, the Governor-general, the Commander-in-chief, and all the principal ladies and Seikh chieftains, making a very variegated and beautiful scene. In the centre of the circle nautching was going on in the most approved manner, Runjeet was drinking quantities of his wine on one side, and on the carpets in front scrambled three or four children, the old man's usual companions. After staying about an hour, he rose and went home, in a close carriage of the Governor-general's. We then sat down to a superb dinner, sixty at one table, and finished the evening in a far more pleasant style than we commenced it.

December 5th. — Started at daylight to see a review of what few troops the Maha Rajah has with him here. The Governor-general met Sir Henry at the river, and together they were joined by Runjeet, about 200 yards from the bank. In his pleasant society they travelled for some two miles, where we found the troops, consisting of

Digitized by Google

six battalions of infantry and three of cavalry, together with twenty pieces of horse-artillery, drawn out in precisely the same way as the General had drawn out his army in the review of the 3d. I never was more surprised than to see the extraordinary effect that our expedition to Lahore, in 1837, has had upon Runjeet's troops. Instead of being what they then were, almost unable to move, they now went through several manœuvres with as much steadiness as our own Sepoy regiments could have done. The Seikhs are most excellent imitators, as the present exhibition proved; perhaps too good: as, in attempting to accomplish all the complicated manœuvres they see executed by our thoroughly disciplined men, they neglect that which is far more important in comparatively raw levies,—namely, the more simple evolutions, of advancing steadily in line, wheeling, and quick formations: but considering their want of officers, and the raw materials they have had

Digitized by Google

to work upon, their execution is most wonderful.

December 6th. — The Governor-general left Feroozpoor *en route* for Lahore, leaving us, for the remaining few days of our stay, in peace. The army of the Indus, as it was called, now partially divided, one portion remaining stationary on the Sutlej, ready either to advance into Affghanistan across the Punjab, or to reinforce the advancing column; while the other, which formed the main body, advanced parallel with the Sutlej, expecting to join the Bombay column under Sir J. Keane in Scinde. The newly raised levies for Shah Suja had preceded our column three days, having his Majesty, the English Political, and the rest of the civilians attached to the army with them.

December 8th and 9th. — Preparing for my solitary march down the Sutlej and Indus, in charge of all his Excellency's baggage and camp-equipage, he (Sir Henry) keeping parallel with the army in his boats.

Digitized by Google

The latter day was chiefly employed in bidding adieu to my old camp-friends of the head-quarters, from many of whom I parted with sincere regret. In their society I have spent three happy years, and I should be very ungrateful did I not acknowledge the uniform kindness I have received from them all.

December 10*th.*—Marched from Ferozpoor, in company with the cavalry-brigade under Colonel Arnold. Met with none of those difficulties we had been led to expect; found the road generally very good, and perfectly practicable for artillery. The place we halted at was Mundote, a considerable walled town and fort within about a mile of the river, finding plenty of forage and necessaries of all kinds laid in for the army, of which more than a sufficiency was given to our brigade.

December 11*th.*—Our next march to Mohun-ke was accomplished comfortably this morning, and found our camp pitched on a somewhat rising ground above the village of that name.

Digitized by Google

December 12*th and* 13*th.*—Two marches of eleven and twelve miles, the first day to Baggeke, and the second to another hard name, both days through a barren and desolate country, entirely destitute of cultivation, with the exception of an occasional field of cotton near the miserable villages, which are now almost deserted to avoid the army, Shah Suja's people having behaved badly to the country people.

December 14*th.*—A very long march of seventeen good miles to Lukhe-ke, through a low jungle of various shrubs and small trees—very good ground for marching through. The only difficulty we find is in grain, which is scarce and very dear—eight seer (16 lbs. English) per rupee, and that only for chargers.

December 15*th.*—A long step of thirteen miles to Tawnkul, through the same kind of country as we passed yesterday, only, if anything, thicker. We are to halt at this place, which is very desirable for all parties.

December 16*th.*—Halt at Tawnkul, a

Digitized by Google

small village within the Buhawulpore territory. Some little difficulty about supplies, which have at last been given out of the commissariat stores. A tiger was seen during the day within two miles of the camp, but unfortunately too late to go out after him.

December 17*th.*—The brigade marched to Buhmooke, through much the same sort of country as we have been travelling through ever since we entered the Buhawulpore territory, viz. enormous plains covered with tamarisk and another small tree of a prickly kind, good only as food for camels and fires, with every three or four miles a small, miserable village, and, occasionally, a field or two of cultivation. The rations served out for horses are sufficient, but very dear, only eight seer for the rupee of grain, which will make it come very hard on the subalterns, who have five or six. The dust on the march is worse and worse every day.

December 18*th.*—A long march of fifteen

Digitized by Google

miles to Chukko-ke, a considerable village within a mile and a half of the Sutlej.

December 19th and 20th.—Two long marches, of thirteen and fourteen good miles, to the villages of Mukdoom-ke Bustee and Kassim-ke. The cultivation, though still very scanty, has much increased in these marches; and, of course, the population with it. In the second, we passed as many as eight small assemblages of huts, built entirely of reeds and grass.

December 21st and 22d.—Marched to Mahta Thedoo the first day, and to Bhadere the second. This place, Bhadere, comprises four tolerably large villages, and is the centre of more cultivation than I have yet seen since leaving Feroozpoor. In the evening, I received orders to have the General's horses at the river side, as he intended being there in the morning.

December 23d.—Started at daylight to the river side with the General's horses. After waiting about two hours, and thinking whether he intended coming or not, his

Digitized by Google

advanced guard, in the shape of Mr. W.'s boat, of the Indian navy, made its appearance, and, shortly afterwards, his own fleet appeared in sight. He had, besides his own large one, some ten boats with him, having his staff servants, and a Vakeil from the Buhawulpore chief on board them. Sir W. Cotton and all his staff met him, but as he did not intend to land till the afternoon, the former and followers soon departed, and we sat down to his breakfast. At half-past two Sir H. landed, and, having mounted, rode down to the cavalry lines to inspect their horses; which he found looking very well, with the exception of those of the horse-artillery, whom hard work had somewhat tucked up. After observing all, he returned quietly to his boats, intending in them to keep parallel with the column as far as Buhawulpore.

December 24th.—Left Bhadere for Hasilpore, a considerable place with many ruins about it. The whole country we passed through after leaving our own territories

Digitized by Google

was one uniform mass of jungly desert, destitute of cultivation, the few and miserable villages being built of reeds and long grass; in many the houses being erected upon piles, to be out of the inundation of the river, which the inhabitants had almost to a man deserted, expecting, as is usually the case with their own armies, to be plundered by ours of every thing they possessed. A road some fifty feet wide had been cut through the entire line by Sappers and Miners, who preceded us, and supplies, as far as practicable, laid in at each of the halting places; so that, beyond dust and fatigue, we had no material difficulty thus far.

December 26th.—Marched from Goth Kaim Raaees to Kyrpoor, a considerable village with a fort, among some trees, about a mile from the river as the crow flies. Received orders to have the horses on the bank in the afternoon, but found, on arriving at the village, that although a crow might fly it a mile, yet a horse would find much difficulty in doing it in four, on

Digitized by Google

account of the swamps, which are totally impassable along the river banks. In the rains, the country for miles on either side of the Sutlej is one mass of mud, which at this season of the year becomes baked, having huge cracks sufficient to take in a horse's legs; and, consequently, it is most dangerous. This made us so late in getting there, that the General declined riding, and we had nothing for it but to get back as fast as the ground would permit, and be in time for the Brigadier's excellent dinner and evening smoke.

December 27th and 28th.—At the two villages of Goth-noor Mahommed and Bakke da dera; and on the 29th we marched to Buhawulpore, the capital, or rather the former capital, of all the country through which we have passed for the last ten marches. Sir W. Cotton, who commands this portion of the army, was met a mile from the town by the eldest son of Buhawul Khan, a dirty boy of some ten years old, seated in a bylie drawn by horses.

Digitized by Google

This chief of Buhawulpore is a Mahommedan, who accordingly hates his Hindoo neighbours, the Seikhs, most cordially; and who, had it not been that the protecting arm of the Honourable Company was stretched out towards him, would long ago have had his territories added to those of Runjeet Sing. He bears a high character among his people; and though his country does not shew much cultivation, the fault, I believe, is to be laid, not to the ruler, but to the soldier-like and roving habits of his subjects, who would prefer doing any thing to cultivating their lands.

The suite of the young Prince was but very indifferent, and, altogether, it was a far inferior show to the smallest tributary of our government in India.

We passed round the walls of the city, which seemed of very great extent, though, I should imagine, but very thinly populated. The principal part of the space between the walls is taken up by very large gardens full of fruit trees. This last march was about the

Digitized by Google

most unpleasant I ever remember, raining hard, and blowing, at the same time, a wind which cut like a knife. After breakfast, I rode in the rain for some fifteen miles to try and find the river and my chief, but without success, the swamps preventing one's getting near enough without a guide; and having succeeded in tiring both myself and my horse, returned wet and miserable. M., however, found him, and brought orders to have the horses at the Gaute, some four miles from this, by ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

December 30th.—Sir Henry rode into camp for the purpose of receiving a visit from Buhawul Khan. All the tents had been pitched, and as good a show made as the small camp equipage marching with the General would allow. After keeping us waiting for nearly an hour (which we afterwards found was not to be laid to his account), he came, surrounded by some 200 ragamuffins, and preceded by a body of men whom he is pleased to denominate

Digitized by Google

his body-guard, dressed in white linen, with the black leathern belts formerly in use in India. After we were all seated the conference began, which was a mere string of compliments and professions of esteem on his part, and an occasional rap on the part of our chief at *false and pretended friends* — wolves in sheep's clothing — he (Buhawul Khan) having been under the displeasure of government, from not providing supplies for the army, and entering cordially into our measures. On the day of the General's arrival he had come down to his boat to attempt to justify himself and make up for what he had lost. On this occasion he stayed about half an hour, during which it was arranged that the General should return his visit to-morrow at the same hour. After this the escort was dismissed, and we adjourned to his boats on the river.

December 31*st*. — I met Sir Henry at eleven with two squadrons of cavalry. We passed through the suburbs, and were met

Digitized by Google

by the eldest son of the Khan near the entrance of the town. After entering it, the streets became narrower and dirtier at every step, until at last the cavalry escort was obliged to proceed by single files. The town itself is principally taken up within the walls by large gardens, filled with fruit and native vegetables of all kinds. Oranges, while we were there (although, of course, our arrival has raised the prices threefold), sold six for a pice, about a penny, or might be had almost for nothing.

After passing through some of the said dirty streets, and a portion of the principal bazar, we arrived at the place in which, when he is here, the Khan takes up his residence. We passed through an arched gateway, and into a small courtyard, from which rose a flight of steps, to the foot of which the Khan came forward to receive Sir Henry. His durbar was a very small one, held under a chaipa (thatched roof), and remarkable in nothing but the extraordinary head-dresses and turbans of some

Digitized by Google

of his people. One individual, whom he pointed out as having killed a tiger with his own single hand with a sword, must have had at least fifty yards of stuff, of one kind or other, on his head. We remained about half an hour, and the two chiefs parted under a salute of cannon which seemed to shake the walls of the old town, unaccustomed to such public speaking.

The General then adjourned to Sir W. Cotton's tents; and at two again mounted his horse to attend a review of the cavalry brigade, who are ordered to parade for the purpose of witnessing the presentation of the order of "British India" to three native officers of the 3d Regiment of cavalry. This order is one which has been lately instituted by the Company, giving both honour and profit to its holders. They are to receive the title of "Buhadah;" the first class receiving two rupees per day over and above all other pay; and the second one in like manner. It is, I be-

Digitized by Google

lieve, in every way a most excellent institution. The General addressed the men to whom it was given, as well as their regiments, trusting that the former would justly appreciate the honour done them, and that the latter would be emulous of deserving similar distinction; after which he tied the decoration, which is a very handsome star with a red riband, on the officers with his own hands.

As it is Sir Henry's intention to go on from this, ahead of the army, he to-day desired me to embark with him on the river, and proceed with him in that manner from hence.

Had a farewell dinner with the Brigadier, and bade "good-by" to all my friends in the camp.

Digitized by Google

PART OF THE FLEET ON THE INDUS.

Published by Henry Colburn, Great Marlborough Street, 1841.

Digitized by Google

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER II.

Enter the Indus—Sulimanian Mountains—A Halt—Arrival of Sir A. Burnes—Impending War with Scinde — Jungle Partridge — Native Troops — March of the Division resumed—Visit of a Native Chief—The Shah's Army—Unexpected News—Cabul Horse-Dealers — Rohree — Its Beautiful Scenery—Island of Bukkor—Great Natural Curiosity—Key of the Indus—Visit from a Native Chief—A Mistake—Scene of Confusion—Cession of Bukkor to the British Army—The Ameer of Hyderabad—Visit to a Native Minister—Native Curiosity—Threatened Attack—Unexpected Submission of Hyderabad, and Return of the Brigade.

January 1*st*, 1839.—My third new-year's day in India. Left the camp at daylight, with many a longing look behind at what I so little expect ever to see again, and where I have spent so many happy hours. Had one of my tents pitched by the river side, my boat not yet being

Digitized by Google

prepared; but that having been done by one o'clock, I was able to send my tent away, and fairly to embark in the evening. The fleet consists of some twelve boats, besides the General's, containing his stores, suite, and guard. His own is a very comfortable budgerow kind of article, but ours are mere Indus boats, covered with matting.

January 2d.—Left Buhawulpore Gaute, and continued moving down rapidly, at the average rate of thirty miles per day. Nothing can be more monotonous than the life we now lead. The boats are brought-to every day for an hour, for breakfast, about ten, after which nothing delays us till half-past four, when we finally stop for the night. In the evening, a brother aide-de-camp and myself usually put our guns on our shoulders, and make the most of our walk by bringing in some duck or teal, with which the banks of the river abound. This must be a most superb stream in the rains, varying from two to five miles in

Digitized by Google

width—that is, between the dry banks—most of the way down; and even now there is seldom less than half a mile or more of deep water.

January 5th.—To-day we entered the Indus, and the stream has very perceptibly increased in width. We came yesterday in sight of a chain of mountains, which are said to be from 6000 to 11,000 feet in height. They are a portion of the Sulimanian mountains, of which these are the southernmost end. To-day we have again nearly lost sight of them, one solitary hill alone remaining visible, which is detached, and not properly a portion of the mountains.

This evening we arrived at a small village, nearly opposite to Miten Cote, the first town we have yet come upon on the Indus. On going out in the evening we found a nullah, in which we had some excellent sport—duck and wild-fowl shooting—bagging (besides two lost) four couple in the course of an hour.

Digitized by Google

Two days more brought us opposite to Subsul Kote, where his Excellency has determined to await the arrival of Sir A. Burnes, our present relations with Scinde making it dangerous to proceed further down the river than this without being fully aware of the posture of affairs. The place we have chosen for our halt is the only one we could have comfortably stopped at for any time, the jungle generally being so tremendous on either bank as to make it difficult to find a bare spot. It is a peninsula formed by an old course of the river, surrounded on two sides by very heavy grass jungle twenty feet high, and on the third by a water-course.

Among the many negotiations, treaties, and what not, entered into by the British government with the native powers, for the furnishing of supplies to the army, permission to march through their territories, and many other points, none proved so tedious and difficult as those with the Ameers of Scinde, the owners of the rich

Digitized by Google

territory stretching from the mountains of Beeloochistan to the sea on the one side, and to the edge of the desert on the other, and themselves the richest and most tyrannical of all the petty princes of Hindoostan. These negotiations are still pending, and daily and uncertain accounts reach us of their probable issue, which make entering their territory at present most unwise unless backed by an army.

January 9th.—Sir A. Burnes, who was with the army in a political capacity, arrived this morning, and had a three-hours' conference with the General, in which he proved the state of feeling on the part of the Ameers of Scinde was at present such that, in all probability, war would be the result; and that, consequently, our preceding the leading column of the army would be highly dangerous. Colonel Pottinger, our resident, had left Hyderabad, and every thing seemed to bid fair for the commencing of our campaign by an attack on that place. The

Digitized by Google

only fear is whether Sir J. Keane, who, with the Bombay army, will be in the country, will not have finished them before the arrival of the Bengal one, and thus have reaped both the honour and the profit.

January 11*th*.—Sir A. Burnes departed this morning to join the head-quarter's camp, which will be opposite to this in a day or two, at Subsul Kote. His departure will be a great loss to us, as he is one of the most agreeable persons I ever met with; and the banks of the river (dull at all times) are doubly so now he has left us.

We discovered excellent black partridge-shooting in the jungle all round our present station; and Colonel F. and myself go out every evening, and he seldom fails in bringing in three or four brace in a couple of hours. In the villages near this are some of Shah Suja's infantry, and such riffraff as they are I never saw. They are only second to the Rajah of Faroukabad's people.

Digitized by Google

January 16*th.*—Left the Gaute (landing place) opposite Subsul Kote to proceed slowly on, parallel with the column.

January 19*th.*—Arrived at the Gaute about eight miles from the town of Gotkee. In the evening, two of the nephews of the Ameer sadly interrupted our shooting, being allowed an interview with the General, for which purpose a field-officer's tent was pitched. They came about half-past five —two insignificant, dirty-looking, youngish men, surrounded by some hundred horsemen. They stayed about a quarter of an hour, when, as usual, many pithy compliments passed; with which, it seemed, they were so delighted, that they tried hard to obtain from Hay, the Persian interpreter, leave to pay another visit to-morrow: but that was not allowed.

January 20*th.*—Sir W. Cotton and M. came down to the boats; the former to get some advice touching marching on Hyderabad, and the latter to hear and tell the news.

Digitized by Google

January 21*st.* — Approached near the village of Hussan Balie, where the head of the division will be on the 23d. Found the Shah's army crossing at the ferry of Azeezpoor, near this. The main body, with the Shah himself, had passed, but there still remained on this side some infantry and seven troops of cavalry. In the evening, the overland dak came in, and brought to the General the astounding and unexpected intelligence that his Majesty's Ministers had not accepted his resignation, and, on the contrary, begged of him to continue on in India. This has, of course, upset all his plans, and made it imperative on him to remain another season in the country. For him it must necessarily be most disagreeable; but to us, who must remain whether or not, it is quite the contrary. I, however, wish it were otherwise, as I think his health will scarcely stand another season of hard work.

Digitized by Google

January 23*d.* — The cavalry brigade arrived near this place this morning; and in the evening we rode into camp, about four miles off. Found them all busy in looking at a parcel of horses brought here by some Cabul merchants, which, however, did not seem good for much. The division are obliged to halt on this ground, no encamping place being yet ready for them at Rohree.

January 24*th.*—Proceeded on down the river to a position near the town of Rohree, and fort of Bukkor. Nothing could be prettier than the last mile of the river as we neared the fort, or more beautiful than was the scenery when we arrived at our station. The town of Rohree stands on a high and rocky bank above the Indus, whose waters in the rainy season wash up to the foot of the wall, and which has a very good effect when seen from a distance, being surrounded by date-trees on every side. The river is at this point divided into two separate and unequal channels; the first and

Digitized by Google

widest being that between the town of Rohree and the island of Bukkor, which is 400 yards wide; and the latter, between the island and the Shikarpoor side, of 70 yards. The island of Bukkor, on which the fortress stands, is the greatest natural curiosity I have seen in India, being formed of rock and limestone imbedded in the most extraordinary and regular layers, looking from a distance like an immense mass of decayed brick. It is, with a trifling exception, entirely enclosed within the fortifications; which, as well, of course, as the island, are 800 yards long by from 150 to 300 in breadth, but of no considerable strength, being entirely commanded by the opposite side of the stream. It is, however, the key of the navigation of the Indus; and as such is so much valued by the natives, that its being given up to us is the greatest blow their national reputation could receive.

The General, in the afternoon, was waited upon by the son of the Ameer of

Digitized by Google

Kyrpoor, the only one of the family supposed to be friendly to us. He came, surrounded by the wildest and dirtiest set of vagabonds it was ever my lot to see; and their manners fully corresponded with their exterior. On a question being asked, instead of waiting to have it answered by the person addressed, every soul opened his mouth, and answered in the most uproarious and noisy manner. In the course of the visit, it was arranged that his father should visit the General the day *after* to-morrow instead of to-morrow, as that would give time for the arrival of the troops in the meantime. Appearances at this moment seem to present every prospect of a war with the Hyderabad chief, the Ameer of Lower Scinde, which, I fear, will much delay the arrival of the troops in Affghanistan.

January 25th. — The cavalry and one brigade of infantry marched in this morning, the latter having come up with the former at Hussan Balie. The ground in front of our boats now has all the anima-

Digitized by Google

tion of a camp, instead of the dull monotony of tamarisk jungle and grass. In the evening, I had the luxury of again mounting my horse.

January 26th.—This morning being the one fixed for the meeting between our chief and him of Scinde, at eight we all paraded in full uniform, as did a wing of the Queen's 13th Regiment. We, however, waited and waited until patience was worn to a thread, when at last he made his appearance about ten o'clock, and the cause of his being so long was explained. It seemed, that on the arrival at his tents, of Colonel F. and Sir A. Burnes, who had been on our part to fetch him, the old man had been persuaded that this was not the day intended, and that he had not the smallest intention of coming. They, however, persuaded him it was absolutely necessary he should come; and, after an hour's detention, he was at length got under way, and travelled along quietly till he came within sight of the tents, when he got frightened

Digitized by Google

at the array drawn out to receive him, stopped the whole procession, and begged Sir A. Burnes would send on to have the parade immediately dismissed. This, however, would not do; so he at length consented to move on, and at last arrived at the tents. Here it was tried to receive him in form, but all was useless. Never was such a bustle seen. The Ameer and the General even found it almost impossible to get to their seats, and every one else entirely so. The barbarians crowded and shoved in every where; and for some time nothing could be heard but "Here, a chair for Mere So-and-so,"—"A seat for the Mere's uncle, cousin, or brother;" and such a noise, row, and disturbance was, I should guess, never before seen. At length silence was restored —all found their places—and conversation could begin.

The Ameer himself is a good-looking old man of sixty-five, and seemed the only gentleman in his country. The conversation was confined, on his part, to pro-

Digitized by Google

testations of fidelity to the British government; and, on the General's, in assurances that they (the Company) had perfect trust in his faith. After this, the General gave him a treaty which had luckily arrived, signed the day before by Lord Auckland, forming an alliance between him and our Government. After staying half an hour, the General proposed he should accompany him to see a review of the cavalry, who were held ready to be inspected. This, he said, would be too much for him, but he would depute his brother to act in his room. The review passed off very well, and must have astonished these barbarians, especially in the size and appearance of the horses, they having nothing but tattoos (small ponies).

The continued hostility of the Ameer of Hyderabad, who owns the whole of Lower Scinde, has determined Sir Henry to move down a considerable portion of the army upon that place, and they will again commence their march in a day or two.

Digitized by Google

January 27th and 28th.—For these two days the several brigades of infantry have been coming in, and are now all assembled.

January 29th.—To-day had been at last fixed upon for the surrender and taking possession of Bukkor, which was safely accomplished this evening by six companies of the 35th N. I. and two of the 16th. The Ameer himself made no opposition, but some of his people and relations it was expected would; but either their hearts failed them, or they never intended it, for certain it is that nothing of the kind was attempted.

Though held in great veneration by the people of these countries, the fort could never at any time be a really strong place, being entirely commanded by a hill on the right bank, on which orders have been issued for fortifications to be raised. Where artillery is so little used or understood, as among the worthy natives of Scinde, the rapid river which surrounds it on all sides, and the high scarped banks, make it a

Digitized by Google

sufficiently formidable place against an undisciplined army without artillery. It is, I imagine, about the hottest place in the known world, beating even Calcutta; and the river, which generally brings cool breezes, at this infernal place apparently changes its character, and puffs up a wind more like that from an oven than from water. The two towns of Sukkor and Rohree, the former on the right, the latter on the left bank, and the fort itself in the centre, seem vieing with each other which can do most towards frying the livers of their unfortunate residents.

January 30*th.*—The cavalry and one brigade of infantry started this morning, *en route* for Hyderabad. Our own departure, though not yet quite settled, will, I conclude, be the day after to-morrow.

January 31*st.*—To-day came news from Sir J. Keane, or rather the Bombay people at Hyderabad, that the Ameer had finally refused the treaty offered to him by the British Government, and therefore all hopes

Digitized by Google

of avoiding war with this respectable individual were at an end. The treaty offered was, I must say, a bitter pill; namely, that he should pay down the sum of thirty lacs of rupees (300,000*l.*); should subsidise for ever an army of 5000 men, two regiments being Europeans; and, moreover, that he should acknowledge the supremacy of the British Government. One cannot but think well of him and his brothers for rejecting a treaty which would, in fact, be the entire surrender of their independence; though now they are likely to be worse off, by having their capital taken and their hardly-earned treasure extorted from them.

In the afternoon the General left his boats, and, escorted by two Russallers (or troops) of Skinner's horse, left Rohree. We marched along the road leading round the town, being more open and less hot than the nearer one. On clearing the rocks on which the town is built, the Chief was met by the old minister of the Ameer, attended as usual by a numerous following of horse-

Digitized by Google

men, who joined us and marched with us to the camp. After leaving the town, the road ran through the most thoroughly oriental yet wild scenery that can be imagined; namely, an immense grove of date and palm trees, intermixed here and there with small gardens of the pomegranate, orange, and mango. This went on for nearly six miles, when we cleared it, and came on the usual jungle of tamarisk, with considerable fields of bajra, a kind of maize, among it. We found the camp badly pitched three miles from the end of the grove, where we arrived in good time for dinner.

February 1st. — The cavalry brigade marched this morning, leaving us to the care of the first of infantry, under Brigadier Sale. In the evening it was settled that the General should return the visit of Mere Roostum, the Kyrpoor Ameer, on the morrow, escorted by a portion of the 13th Queen's and Skinner's horse.

February 2d. — We left the camp at

Digitized by Google

seven this morning, escorted by six companies of infantry, in order to return the visit. A confidential man of the minister's had been sent to shew us the way, and, after travelling about three miles over more cultivation than we have seen since leaving the Company's dominions, we arrived at his camp, pitched in every sort of way, without the smallest attempt at order. After much danger to one's self and horse from tattoos, horses' heels, and tent-ropes, we at last arrived at a very decent, red, double-poled tent, and advanced up to the door between two lines of as savage a looking crew of matchlock men, and others, as could be well conceived. In the arrangements for *entrée* the Ameer had shewn much prudence, by having a door-way through which only one person could pass at a time, and a spearman was planted on each side to prevent the intrusion of the *profanum vulgus.*

On entering it was at first, after coming out of the light, somewhat difficult to dis-

Digitized by Google

cover the interior, so dark was it, no light being let in but that which the sun gave in shining through the somewhat thin red top of the tent. We all found seats on large charpoys (sleeping frames, or divans), covered with tiger and leopard skins, and ranged in a circle, instead of chairs; which, with the red light shining on them, had not a bad effect. The Ameer sat on a sofa, with the General by his side, and his two brothers, Moubarick and Allee Morad Khan, seated with them, only behind. Both the latter are known to be violently opposed to the English interest, and to have urged the Ameer to break with us.

Complimentary speeches flew about as usual in the durbar, and in the meantime I was no small matter of interest to two lords of the Scinde court, between whom I was seated. Seeing by the General's handing to me his swords and matchlocks, as they were severally presented to him by the Chief, that I was about his person, they began to ask questions concerning him, as, "How

Digitized by Google

old he was?"—"Whether it was true he had been in a hundred battles, and been victor in them all?" &c. &c. They then began to examine me personally, taking off my cocked hat, taking out the plume and the lining, to see what was inside; putting their hands under the bullion of my epaulettes, to see if they were solid; examining my sabredash, and taking out pencil and paper, and one or two things that happened to be in it. All this I stood very well, for they seemed a good-natured sort of people: but the natives of Otaheite could not be more wild or ignorant. At length the durbar was over, and the two chiefs parted under mutual expressions of good-will; and, after some difficulty, we regained our horses and marched into camp, where we found ourselves about twelve o'clock.

February 2d.—We halted at this place for the day, while the head-quarters and cavalry moved on. It is an unfortunate place for a halt, being nothing but a small spot cut out of the prickly jungle to place

Digitized by Google

the camp upon. News from the southward, saying that the Ameer of Hyderabad and his people had positively had the impudence to cross the Indus with 25,000 men to attack Sir J. Keane; and we congratulated ourselves on the certainty of their getting most soundly thrashed.

February 3d.—Marched to a village called Peer Goth Purrana, through a country covered with jawarr* sufficient to forage 100,000 cavalry. The people of the country are beginning to bring every thing into camp for sale, and the Hindoos, by underselling each other, have reduced the price of grain enormously.

February 4th.—A short march of ten miles to Bara Kundee, through the same kind of country as that we beheld yesterday. All kinds of rumours prevalent in camp: among others, that Sir J. Keane had been defeated, and was retreating before

* A kind of grain, growing to the height of seven and eight feet; the commonest and cheapest in this part of India.

Digitized by Google

the Ameers. The force under Captain Maccan, on the other side of the river, have taken possession of Lakàna, without resistance. The heat in the middle of the day beginning to get very oppressive, thermometer never less than from 85° to 90°.

February 5th and 6th.—Marched to Nona Yoth and Dera Merhabat without difficulties of any kind. To-day we received news from Sir J. Keane, that, just as he was preparing for the attack on Hyderabad, the Ameer sent in his submission, and that therefore his column had halted, and he desired ours to do the same; and we accordingly halted till further orders.

February 8th.—Letters from Sir J. K., ordering back the column with all speed; the negotiations going on properly.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER III.

Return of Sir H. Fane's Brigade—Disappointment—Passage of the River—Magnificent Scene—Change of Plans—A Halt—Preparations for Departure—Orders to Advance—Speculation—Arrival at Shikarpoor—Its Bazar—Extraordinary Scene—A Struggle for Supremacy—Shah Sooja—His Character—Continued March—Desolate Country—The Mirage of the Desert—No Water—Improved Prospects—Approach to the Mountains of Beeloochistan—False Alarms.

February 9th.—Commenced our return journey with no very pleasurable feelings. To return without a shot being fired, sneaking back as if being thrashed or frightened (to one or other of which reasons the natives are sure to ascribe it), are too much for one's patience. The only comfort we have is that a gun having been fired at the Wellesley, seventy-four, on entering the port of

Digitized by Google

Caratchchy with troops, she, having no political agent on board to interfere and ask the reason why, immediately rounded-to, and poured in her whole broadside on the fort, knocking the whole place to shivers, and either, as report says, killing or wounding every soul within. A lesson to the Scindians at firing at a British ship, which they will long remember.*

February 10*th*, 11*th*, 12*th*, *and* 13*th*.—Moved slowly back towards Rohree, over precisely the same road and country as before, and without meeting with adventure of any kind. Marched ten miles to-day into Barallo, sixteen miles from Rohree.

February 14*th*, 15*th*, *and* 16*th*.—Our brigade continued on as before, and the latter day entered Rohree, or rather passed through, and crossed the bridge of boats to Sukker, the opposite position. The General turned off through the date-grove to a

* All of this turned out afterwards to be gross exaggeration.

Digitized by Google

garden-house belonging to one of the Ameers, opposite which his boats are lying. I continued on with the troops, and saw them across. Nothing could be more perfect than was the engineering displayed in the construction of this bridge; the boats had been placed side by side the whole width of the stream, strongly moored both stern and bows, with large anchors formed of immense masses of rock tied together, secured with timbers on all sides, and then lowered into the river, which in a short time washed the sand round them, and formed a perfect bed. Nothing could be more beautiful than the scene at this time; the perfect order and discipline of the soldiers as they moved in columns of three over the noble river, partly on the bridge and partly yet emerging from the green date-forest; the enormous mass of camels, horses, and men waiting on the bank till the troops had passed; the castellated and picturesque fortress of Bukkor, with its mosques and palm-trees, in the

Digitized by Google

centre; and again, on the distant bank, the white tents above the rocky shore, shewed altogether a scene rarely, if ever, equalled.

The whole brigade having passed over without accident, I started to return to the boats, which I managed to accomplish after much trouble, the narrow road being entirely blocked up with camels and baggage, in and out of which we had to bob in the oddest manner. After going on this road for a mile or two, I turned into the grove through a succession of gardens filled with every kind of tropical fruit, which brought me to a kind of ruinous garden-house built on the high bank of the river, under which the boats were lying. Here the General dismissed his tents and again took up his old quarters. I, having determined either to join my regiment or at all events the advancing army, continue in mine as usual.

February 17th.—Sir Henry determined to wait here for news of Sir J. Keane, whose movements have been for some time uncer-

Digitized by Google

tain; and, in the present impudent state of the Hyderabad Ameer, many more unlikely things have happened than their again turning against us: in which case they might chance to bag his Excellency on his way down. In the evening I rode to the cavalry lines in the old encamping ground at Bukkor.

February 18*th.*—To-day the General heard from Sir J. Keane, who said that all was well at Hyderabad, and that he was already several marches on his way to this place. Sir Henry, therefore, determines to start to-morrow morning, the day being passed in which he could have led on his army himself, and many reasons combining to make him wish to get as soon as possible to Bombay, there to remain as long as his further services were required in the East.

February 19*th.*—The whole morning employed in getting Sir Henry's and other people's horses into boats, which was happily accomplished without accident. It was so far a comfort, that it prevented me from

Digitized by Google

thinking of my separation from one who, for three years, has been almost a father to me; who has never said an unkind word; and who, up to this moment, has proved himself the kindest and best of human beings.

After breakfast, after a durbar to receive the Prime Minister, the separation so much dreaded by me took place, and my chief's boats got under way, and sailed slowly out of view, watched by my longing eyes to the last. After they were gone, Captain H., his Persian interpreter, and myself, who were in a similar predicament, remained in solitary blessedness, and at three struck our tents and started to move over the river; he to his regiment in the fort, and I to take up my old quarters with Colonel Arnold in the cavalry brigade, which had crossed in the morning. My little Arab crossed quietly over the creaking planks, and carried me over the four miles to the cavalry ground on the other side in a quarter of an hour.

Digitized by Google

February 20*th*.—Halted on this ground, the best possible for our force, being covered with grass in all directions, though not so for a long stay, from the stench of dead camels. I think I counted not less than twenty in the four miles between the bridge and this.

February 21*st*.—Moved the first march towards Shikarpoor, where it is expected we shall halt. Orders received in the afternoon to move on immediately, which caused much speculation as to the cause; and accordingly on the 22*d* we marched through thick tamarisk jungle to Shikarpoor, where we found our advance tents pitched on indifferent ground near the town. At length I have actually arrived at Shikarpoor, which I little thought twelve months ago I should ever see. It seems from this distance a large place, with gardens surrounding it on three sides. In the afternoon I and two of the lancers rode into the bazar, which is the only one I have seen in India (a misnomer, by-

Digitized by Google

the-by, as we are not now in it), which gave me the idea of an oriental one as described in all the books of travels one has read.

On leaving the camp we passed a small mud fort on the right hand, belonging to the Ameer of Hyderabad; he and his cousin of Kyrpoor having an equal share in the town. The place is surrounded by a somewhat ruinous mud wall, with four gates. The one we entered at had nothing remarkable in it, and we passed from it through a short and dirty street, with a very handsome mosque in it, to the bazar, being, I should say, at least a mile long, and about twelve feet wide, with shops on both sides. It was covered the whole length with thick matting, to stop in some degree our enemy the sun, who, they all say, is worse in the very hot weather here than even in lower Bengal.

This bazar was a most curious scene; costumes of every nation of central Asia, Hindoos, and Mussulmans of all creeds and varieties. The former are a most substan-

Digitized by Google

tial and wealthy-looking set, for which they have the reputation; and, in fact, one can always tell a wealthy Hindoo, as his stomach invariably increases in the same ratio with his rupees. The bazar was crowded to excess; and, though the people were civil to a degree, yet we should have found some difficulty in getting through had it not been for the soldiers of the 16th, who, wandering up seeing the sights, no sooner saw our situation than they set to work to thump the heads of every one in our front, and soon cleared us a passage. Every thing that a native could possibly require was to be found, and every calling seemed to be filled,—jewellers, ironmongers, saddlers, money-changers: in fact, every sort of shop. But the most prevailing, and I conclude, therefore, most lucrative trade, was the sweetmeat sellers; of which, I should think, there must have been 200 shops. The number of flies thus brought together, and comfortably housed within the mats, was, as might be supposed, immense, as were also

Digitized by Google

the smells; and altogether, I cannot fancy a better likeness for the infernal regions than that spot in the very hottest weather, when the thermometer stands, as they say it does, at 120° in the shade. We bought two or three trifling things, horse-clothing, head-stalls, &c. &c., and then left delighted (as the newspapers say) with our visit.

February 23d.—Some difference of opinion as to the relative merits of advancing or remaining on our present ground, which existed between the civil and military leaders of the expedition, was at last settled by the latter coming off victorious, and with flying colours; and it has been, therefore, determined to move on the Bengal division at once, and let the Shah and his people get on as best they may.

Shah Suja having expressed a wish to see the cavalry, they paraded at half-past four this evening. He came in a gilded litter surrounded by the civilians attached to him and his people, in addition to his own ragamuffins. The condition of the

Digitized by Google

horses, the size of the men, and their perfect state of discipline, made him say to himself what one of his followers did as he turned away discontentedly,—"Ah! the days of Mahommedism are gone by! What a lord of the sword is every man of those!"

The horses and men are really at this moment in finer order, and in a more perfect state of equipment, than the day they left their cantonments at Meerutt, after one of the longest marches ever made—more than 800 miles, without the loss of a man.

The Shah is a very fine-looking, well-bearded, handsome man, which, I believe, sums up his good qualities; for he has the reputation of being an arrant coward, making it a rule to run after the first shot, and was but a very indifferent ruler in Affghanistan. The cavalry marched past him, I acting as extra aide-de-camp to General A., and got again to quarters by dinner-time.

Digitized by Google

February 24th.—Left Shikarpoor *en route* for the Bolan pass. We lost our way in the dark of the morning, and made a march of nearly twenty miles instead of thirteen, as it might have been for the cavalry and horse-artillery. We were also delayed in crossing a nullah (small river) by one of the guns at the head of the column upsetting, and stopping up the road; which is so far pleasant that it gives the cavalry horses time to fight—which they invariably take ready advantage of; and, if in the rear of the column, one's legs are very apt to suffer. From Shikarpoor we might fairly be said to have entered the enemy's country; for though, properly speaking, the country to the south of the Bolan pass forms no part of Affghanistan, still the tribes around the desert are always more or less hostile, and accordingly more caution was displayed in our advance. Promises of supplies had been liberally given by all the petty chiefs of the country, with assurances that we should find them collected on our line

Digitized by Google

of march, and thus the quantity taken with our column was proportionably lessened, and limited to a sufficiency to supply the army as far as Candahar, supposing no interruptions occurred.

February 25th.—Marched thirteen miles through, in some places, thick jungle, to a village, or rather the remains of one, said to have been depopulated by Shah Suja on a former expedition of his for the recovery of his throne. Not a single soul to be discovered on the whole route of to-day. News came in the evening from Captain Thompson, the chief engineer, on a-head, that at the next ground there was but one drinkable well, and that in this he had found but seven feet of water, and that his company of Sappers had reduced this to one foot and a half, making it totally impossible for the whole of the cavalry to advance together; therefore, it is determined that the brigade shall move in three detachments, the 16th Lancers taking the lead alone to-morrow.

Digitized by Google

February 26th.—The 16th marched this morning; the 3d Cavalry and guns will leave the day after to-morrow; and the head-quarters and 2d Cavalry the following day. News arrived in the course of the day of another well having been discovered, which will make matters less difficult, and we accordingly halted to hear news from the advanced regiment for one day.

February 28th.—Third Bengal Light-cavalry and horse-artillery marched this morning, in spite of discouraging accounts of the water on the *other* side the desert; the Lancers, who have crossed the desert, having reported better of the water than Captain T. had done.

March 1st.—Orders arrived during the day for the remainder of the brigade to march to Roghain, the authorities having at length determined to move somewhere.

March 2d.—Moved from our ground at Janeedera, of which we were thoroughly sick, to Roghain, at the edge of the desert. We found the horse-artillery and head-

Digitized by Google

quarters there; the cavalry having marched last night to cross the desert. We made a march of eleven miles and a quarter, and on arriving at the ground found Sir W. C.'s camp pitched near the small mud fort, which, with the three wells, are the only signs of human beings inhabiting the country, so barren and desolate is its appearance. The 2d Cavalry and artillery, with the head-quarters, moved again at ten o'clock at night, to commence their march across the desert. Col. Arnold determined not to ride all night, but instead to move at three in the morning, have two horses laid on the road, and gallop through. Sir W. Cotton and his staff determined to do the same, and I moved with them all.

About half a mile from our camp the last shrub or tree was left behind, and as far as the eye could reach to our front, right, and left, nothing but a bare hard plain of baked sand was to be seen. The road was as hard and good as the North Road, and we trotted comfortably along at the rate of

Digitized by Google

some seven miles an hour, our horses' hoofs and sabres rattling, being the only things that broke the extreme stillness of the beautiful clear moonlight.

A little before daylight we came to our second horses, where Col. Arnold had also managed to have some cold meat and beer, to assist us over the remainder of our journey. After discussing this we again mounted, and cantered along the remaining fifteen or sixteen miles into camp. On our way we had an excellent view of that sight so often described by travellers in the Arabian desert, "the mirage;" a river with a high bank, and birds standing in the water, were very clearly perceptible, much to our satisfaction.

After marching for about six-and-twenty miles we came upon what they said was the edge of the desert, the only difference perceptible being some stunted rushes instead of dry sand, and a miserable ruined mud fort, with a solitary and sickly tree. We found the difficulties regarding water not

Digitized by Google

to have been exaggerated; for though the newly cut wells were numerous, the water in them was so muddy, and stunk so horridly, as to be scarcely usable even for washing, much less for drinking. There was, however, just enough for the horses; but the poor camels came off with none; as did bullocks and all other animals, who have to wait till to-morrow. There is an appearance of cultivation being carried on here during the rains, but at present not an atom of any thing is to be seen above ground but the said solitary tree, and sundry dry rushes.

March 4th.—Marched to Meerpoor, fourteen miles and a half, over the same wretched looking country as before; the only clump of trees I saw in the whole distance being those at our camp, near a considerable village, under the walls of which we are. Plenty of good water at this place, and some little kirby (thick straw), with some few bullocks and sheep; the comfort of the former (water) not to be described.

Digitized by Google

March 5th.—Moved on to Ostarde, through a miserable and uncultivated country, though several villages were to be seen in the distance; as also several deserted ones in our neighbourhood. Ostarde we found to be a small enclosed village, under the mountains of Beeloochistan, which were first seen very distinctly from thence. Some green fields of corn, which were unlucky enough to be near our encampment, quickly held their diminished heads, by being covered with camels, bullocks, sheep, and grasscutters, who having been starved for want of grass for these last ten days, now made themselves happy in the green corn. It was, however, absolutely necessary to let the cavalry horses and baggage animals get their fill; and the Hon. Company accordingly found themselves minus 750 rupees, which were paid for damage done.

The outline of the hills is bold and grand, rather than beautiful, being utterly barren and seemingly without either shrub or tree, as far as the eye can reach. As usual, an

Digitized by Google

alarm of Beeloochees having carried off camels in the night, was in the end discovered to have no other origin than some having strayed, which were magnified by the fidgetiness of some of the camel people to fifty armed warriors.

March 6th.—Brought us a march of twelve miles over a bad road, cut along the banks of the Waree, which seems to be entirely dammed up at this season of the year. I passed no less than three dams during the march. It is, however, a grand thing to again see a stream of any kind, however small.

Bagh, the halting place, is a small town with an excellent bazar, where also some few supplies had been collected. The brigade was again collected at this place. The 16th Lancers and 3d Cavalry awaited our arrival, the former having been four days at the ground.

An alarm of camels being carried off had created, as usual, a disturbance. A *whole squadron* of lancers were ordered out to hunt after them—and were kept out half the night,

Digitized by Google

going at full gallop with drawn swords over water-courses, and bad ground of all sorts; during which no less than four men had falls, horses and all, and one was seriously hurt. This proceeding gave no little cause for grumbling; and, in fact, the only excuse that could be made for it, was that camels are as valuable as gold, and not to be again obtained for love or money. Nevertheless, a hundred Europeans need not have been sent to look after half-a-dozen camels. Our camels now begin to die in numbers; many officers have already been obliged to destroy parts of their marching equipments; and the commissariat officers look uncomfortable, as their supplies of these animals, and the grain they carry, sensibly diminish. Grain begins to get both scarce and dear in the bazars; and ones' horses shew in their tucked-up bellies and high bones, the hard work and little food they are now receiving. I only trust things may improve when we get to the richer country of Affghanistan.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER IV.

Halt at Bagh — Duck-Shooting — March over the Mountains — Change of Temperature — Halt — Want of Supplies — Curious Tomb — Desertion by the Natives — Caught and Flogged — An Awkward Predicament — Celebrated Pass of Bolan — Attack by the Beeloochees — Graves of Murdered Travellers — Great advantages of Camel Artillery — Difficulties of the March — Miserable Prospect — Dreadful Sufferings of the Camp-Followers — Loss of Baggage and Cattle — Want of Forage — Valley of Shawl — Hail and Snow-Storms — Alarming State of the Army — The Hill-Robbers.

March 7th. — Halted at Bagh. I rode through the bazar in the evening, which seemed a tolerable one; the place, in fact, is one for manufacturing an excellent kind of setringee (tent-carpets), gunpowder, and some pottery, and is the best place for buying bullocks in these parts, — Runjeet

Digitized by Google

Sing getting the chief part of his artillery ones from hence.

March 8th.—Left Bagh, and made a long march of sixteen miles. The first part of the way was very bad, being over country evidently in the rainy season covered with water, and now of course in large cracks, and water-courses; but it soon improved, and became an open and excellent road, entirely desert, with the exception of a tree every twelve or fourteen yards. We encamped on excellent ground, on the high bank of a small river, near a village surrounded with green crops and cultivation. For the first time this fortnight we got very tolerable grass for our horses, though in small quantities. The wild fowl were flying about in all directions the whole day, and I saw a soldier of the 16th bag two ducks with his carbine within 200 yards of the camp.

March 9th.—Left our ground at three in the morning, and after going about four miles entered the hills by a low range, not

Digitized by Google

more than 400 feet high. The road runs between two of the highest, which gradually run down to the point of a triangle, over which a narrow passage, sufficient for the guns, had been cut by the Sappers and Miners under Major L. This part was not fifty feet high, and having crossed it we again descended a little and crossed another, similar, coming to a sandy plain entirely enclosed by mountains; this we crossed for some three miles, when the road enters an enormous ravine, along which we moved for some little distance, and then over a small brook at one end. This being passed, and the ascent of the ravine made, you see before you an oblong plain, running directly up to the base of the higher mountains.

We halted for a few minutes to collect the scattered squadrons, broken by the passage of the ravine and brook, and then moved along the plain parallel with the mountains. This we continued for some eight miles, having a low jungle on

Digitized by Google

either side, but shewing everywhere marks of having been under rich cultivation till within these last two years (as indeed the natives say it was), the want of rain having occasioned its abandonment. We found our camp pitched near a small village surrounded by cultivation on all sides, and some little grass was also to be had. The thermometer, which for the last two days has been from 95° to 100°, has to-day been considerably lowered by a cool mountain breeze.

March 10*th.*—On getting up this morning the high wind made marching most disagreeable, by filling one's eyes with dust. Our march was over a plain much the same as the one met with yesterday, the only obstacle being a small stream to cross, where both the steepness of the ascent and descent made it difficult for the artillery. Our camp we found pitched about half a mile from the small town of Dadur, situated on the right bank of the small stream, the bed of which forms the pass of Bolan. Our lines

Digitized by Google

we found marked out nearly surrounded by mountains, having a picturesque small chain running under our front, being one of the many small sprouts springing from, and running east and west, from the higher chains, which frown down upon us from the westward. There is much cultivation in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, and even a grove or two of trees, almost the first we have seen since leaving Rohree, a distance of nearly 180 miles. We are to remain here four or five days, during which time one of the infantry brigades will move up to our front, and the Bolan pass be surveyed.

March 11*th*.—Halt at this place. The want of supplies has become so serious that the commissariat have found it necessary to diminish the rations served out to men and horses one half, and if matters do not shortly mend we shall be in a state of starvation, caused by the utter want of arrangement, want of carriage, and the want of knowledge of the country.

Digitized by Google

March 12*th.*—Rode, in the afternoon, with two or three of the 16th, into the town. We had first to ford the stream, a narrow deep one, with a muddy bad bottom, full of holes, in which our horses sunk up to their shoulders more than once. Nothing could be more wretched than this doghole of a town. After ascending for five or six yards we entered a dirty, narrow street, and moved up it to the misnomered bazar; which may be, when all the people are in the country, a tolerable one, but at present half, or more than half, the shops are deserted, and consequently very few things are to be had in it, and those exorbitantly dear. Onions and garlic seemed to be the staple commodity. I saw some fine mares in the place; but the people appeared somewhat sulky and impudent, and we therefore soon moved off.

March 13*th.*—This evening I amused myself by sketching from the top of a garden wall belonging to the chief

Digitized by Google

of the place. I could not make out to what worthies the tomb was erected, but it contained five smaller ones inside, each of which was already well written over by Smiths and Johnstons belonging to the force. Three of the smaller tombs seemed to be of men, and two those of women. It stood in a very romantic situation on the high bank of the river, surrounded on all sides by the rocky heights and mountains of Affghanistan. It is singular that men who live in the wretched dog-holes they do should, when dead, ensconce themselves in buildings which would not do discredit to the best European architect.

March 14th.—The first brigade of infantry joined our camp this morning, it being intended to send them in advance of us, the cavalry, through the defiles of the Bolan. They were to have gone on again to-morrow, but this morning the bearers carrying the doolies (open palanquins for the sick) ran off to a man, and the brigade was stopped at ten o'clock.

Digitized by Google

March 15*th.* — Most of the missing bearers having been caught to-day, and well flogged for their pains, the infantry will move with the horse-artillery, head-quarters, and a regiment of cavalry to-morrow morning, leaving us to follow on the 17th with the remainder of our own, and the first brigade.

March 16*th.* — The head-quarters and troops moved this morning, the first march through the pass.

March 17*th.* — Brigade head-quarters, 16th and 3d Regiments of Cavalry, the camel-battery of nine-pounders, and the 16th N. I., moved from our old ground at Dadur. By the breaking of one of the water-dams above my tent, I found on awaking in the morning two feet water all over it; and so deep was it that my faithful dog, Spot, who was sleeping with me, was afraid to jump off the bed into the water, but stood barking on the edge. By getting out, and walking up to my knees in water for some ten yards, I got

Digitized by Google

to a dry spot, where a brother aide-de-camp's tent was pitched, happily on dry ground.

We moved over a wretched country of shingle, crossing the river some eight times before entering the mountains. The entry to this celebrated pass of Bolan is grand, though by no means picturesque, being between two rocks of some 500 feet perpendicular, without a sign of vegetation, under the right one of which the little river runs bounding and rushing over a pebbly bottom, the road being merely the larger stones of the shingle placed slightly on one side. The pass varied from 500 to 70 yards wide, seldom less than the latter, though occasionally more than the former. Wild fowl were in plenty on the stream, which, if one had not the chance of being bagged one's self instead, would be an excellent place for getting at them, having high roads and jungle in many places, and the water always with a good bottom. We crossed the stream, I

Digitized by Google

think, nineteen times during the march; it varied from two to three feet in depth.

The character of the mountains is uniformly the same; the most thoroughly bare, desolate ones I ever saw.

We found the camp pitched some six miles within the mountains, on bad ground, but a sufficiency of it to encamp the whole army on its shingly plain. It is named Cundah, but from what cause it is difficult to say; for not a symptom of a human habitation have we yet seen, no forage of any kind for camels, and but bad for horses. How the former will any of them survive to tell the tale at the end of the defiles, I know not.

March 18*th.*—Heavy storms of wind and rain during the night have prevented marching this morning, but at twelve, the rain having held up, and the tents being dry, we got under way, and accomplished the march of thirteen long miles by four o'clock. There is no material difficulty in the route, except the number of times we

Digitized by Google

crossed the stream—fifteen or sixteen times in all: in fact, the whole road seemed by water. Two camels slipped in the worst and deepest ford, near the end, and were drowned; but with this exception I heard of no casualties. The road was through much the same country as yesterday. In the evening one of the party of the 16th, who had strayed from his party in the dark, was knocked from his horse by the Beeloochees, and stripped of every article he had, his horse galloping into camp.

March 19th.—Left Kirtah, where our encamping was on an immense bleak plain, covered with low bushes and some little wood, for Beebeenannee. The same cause as yesterday, namely, rain, prevented our marching till twelve o'clock; but the breeze off the mountains made it cool and pleasant. To-day's road was, as usual, entirely shingle, and over the plain for the first six miles; afterwards we crossed a small ridge of hills and entered another, at the end of which the camp was formed.

Digitized by Google

The only thing by which encamping-ground is known in this desolate country, is by a certain number of graves of murdered travellers who have preceded us.

March 20th.—Marched from Abigoom over a most villanous road, and through places where the pass was so narrow, that, with 5000 men, I would undertake to stop the march of fifty times the number, to Sirai Kirjoor, where we found the head-quarters halted to allow breathing-time to the horse-artillery, who are quite knocked up, being obliged to move with eight horses per gun, and even then to stop every half-hour. They have altogether much disappointed the expectations formed of them, their horses proving unequal to the desperate work they have to undergo, without proper rations. The camel battery have far outstripped them in every way, and are, at this moment, as fit to go into action as on the day they left Feeroozpoor. Altogether the camel experiment has answered admirably, and I cannot fancy a more

Digitized by Google

effective force than could be obtained by combining the two, having a set of horses and a set of camels to each gun and tumbrel; the former to go into action, and the latter for the hard draught-work.

At this place we found some green wheat fields, which will supply forage for the horses for the day; and, truly, not before wanted; the more so as, I believe, only three or four days' grain (horse-corn) remains in store. At one o'clock to-day, the advanced division moved on over the first thirteen miles of this twenty-eight-mile march, and are to continue it in the morning, if the remainder of their baggage-cattle do not knock up; which, as they have lost even more than we, and are in every way more fatigued, is a misfortune not unlikely to occur.

March 21*st.* — At four this morning all our advanced baggage, with the commissariat, started to do the first twelve miles of this awful march, and with the intention of halting at a place in what is

Digitized by Google

called "the Unhappy Valley," being a desert plain about two miles beyond the head of the pass. This valley, though desolate and dreary in the extreme, without a house or a symptom either of water or cultivation, was to us most refreshing after the stony and mountain track we had so long travelled on in the pass. It formed a level plain of sand, hard as the north road, which the unfortunate foot-sore camels seemed thoroughly to appreciate, for even those most knocked up, and apparently at their last gasp, now pricked up their ears and moved along with long strides towards the new camp. Hundreds had, however, been left behind dead and dying, the shingle and want of food combined having completely done for them. Had the Beeloochees been an agricultural people, and acquainted with bone manure, their lands, if anything could have effected their amelioration, would by this time have arrived at a high state of cultivation, for the quantity of bones we left in that dreary

Digitized by Google

pass would have made the fortune of an English farmer. Camels were, alas! not the only creatures left there, horses, in many cases, suffered the same fate, bullocks without end, and even old men, women, and children, were either cut off by the mountain robbers who followed on our track, or, in many cases, sat down to die. I sent my rear-baggage at twelve; at half-past, the "boot and saddle" sounded; and at one we were under way.

The road was rather better than before, for the first eleven miles running along the dry bed of what must be, in the wet season, a furious stream. The rocks on either side overhung the road 1000 feet perpendicular, of the most picturesque forms possible. In many places you might have pitched stones on the head of every man that passed, without the possibility of his preventing it. A few trees were also to be seen for the first time. After gradually ascending to a height of 4000 feet, and marching about eleven miles,

Digitized by Google

we crossed a very steep hill, over which a regiment of infantry were shoving the guns, and entered the (to us) misnomered "Unhappy Valley;" for nothing could give one more pleasure than getting out of this horrid place.

It had been intended to halt at some pools of water, two miles beyond the head of the pass; but to our horror we found, on arriving there, that the camp had been, by some mistake, moved on to the end of twenty-eight miles. This pleasing surprise, too, came upon us about six in the evening, with a bitter cold night, snow on all the hill-tops, and every prospect of more coming on our devoted heads. However, nothing was to be done but to grin and bear; so the men cloaked up, set their faces to the breeze, and moved on, with many a longing look at the lights in the camp of one of the infantry regiments, who were formed up here, behind. I, however, being perfectly independent, did not think it necessary to move on; but on the contrary, remembering a young cousin

Digitized by Google

whose regiment was with this camp, I asked him to give me a dinner, and allow my bed to be placed in his tent: thus obtaining, instead of a cold night's march, an excellent dinner and hearty welcome.

The losses among both public and private cattle have been, during the last few days, most severe; every ten yards through the Bolan, one came upon a dead or dyiug camel, carts upset and left to fate, their bullocks being thoroughly done. Occasionally, a dead horse, and even the corpse of a human being, made one's horse start back; and the sights one witnessed among the poor women and children attached to the camp followers, who cried to be helped on, without a hope of one's being able to do so, has left an impression which it will take many years to efface from my memory.

If one had not expected the same kind of misfortune one's self, one could not have helped laughing at a brother-officer's long face; when, after sitting on a stone half the day, waiting for his tent and baggage, his

Digitized by Google

head servant arrived, with the comfortable assurance "that his tent-camel had laid down in the road, and was fast dying; and that a second with his boxes, which contained every thing for breakfast, had two men thumping him behind; and, should he arrive at all, it would be late at night, and could not be expected to be able to move in the morning." This and similar misfortunes occurred to every one at one period or other, and by the time we got near Quetta, the wonder was not that one's camels did *not* arrive at the end of a march, but that they *did* make their appearance.

Meanwhile, the public camels, what with cold, bad forage, and hard work, begin to die by fifties; and unless we can get a very considerable relay in the Shawl valley, we shall be much puzzled to move on.

March 22*d.*—Marched with the 10th N. I. and camel battery at five this morning, going fifteen miles over a perfectly level plain, most agreeable after our shingle road of these last ten days. At the end of

Digitized by Google

this I found the camp placed among very fine forage for cattle, and with some little cultivation around it. Numerous wells, with an arch connecting each, called "carries," run in all directions through this, what might be, under good government, a most fertile valley. The valley of Shawl is the richest, though that is not saying much for it, which we have yet seen, and, though perfectly flat, is entirely surrounded by very high mountains. The supplies of grain having nearly failed for the cavalry horses, Col. Arnold has determined to go on to Quetta, taking with him the 2d Cavalry, and try and obtain something to keep the horses alive.

March 23*d*.—Colonel Arnold and myself started at daylight, and rode ten miles into Quetta. The road lay through more cultivation than we have seen since leaving Hindoostan, and nothing could be finer than the present appearance of the crops; but, alas! they are all young and green! Still there must be some grain in the coun-

Digitized by Google

try, which, if they were properly bullied into it, the chiefs must and will produce: but under our present system of treaties and humbug, nothing will, I know, be forthcoming. The country people have brought some little grain, or rather straw, some lucerne, and spices, and dried fruits, into camp: but as yet not a symptom of barley.

This climate is perfect on fine days; quite cool, yet not too cold. We had indeed a heavy hail-storm this evening; but, as it is probably the clearing off of the windy, blowing weather we have lately had, we can excuse it.

Before our arrival, they had a heavy snow-storm, which covered all the tents, and half-killed the miserable Hindoos in camp.

March 24th.—Remained in camp during the day, neither the General nor any of the remainder of the army having moved from the last ground.

March 25th.—The head-quarters and 1st Infantry brigade joined our detachment,

Digitized by Google

together with the remainder of the cavalry. Supplies are running dreadfully short. On an examination of the commissariat stores to-day, it was found necessary to diminish the already sufficiently short allowance of our camp-followers and servants, as also that of the fighting men, one half. Our people, who have for some time received but half a seer, or 1 lb. of flour, have had it reduced to a quarter; and the soldiery, in like manner, from one to half a seer. At this rate we have supplies for fourteen days at full rations, and twenty-two at half; by which time it is hoped that either we shall get something from the rear, or that Sir A. Burnes may have bullied the Khan of Kelât into giving some. If neither of these answer, God only knows what will become of us, with 100,000 mouths to feed in a country of enemies, and totally destitute of cultivation — sufficiently so, at least, to fail to feed the immense and helpless mass we have with us. Major A., the Adjutant-general, has been sent back

Digitized by Google

through the pass to Sir J. Keane, to beg him to hurry forward whatever supplies there are behind, and to bring up the Shah with him if possible.

The Khan of Kelât, the principal chief of the country around us, had made many promises of furnishing supplies, and had held out hopes of our finding considerable quantities of grain at Quetta, but either it was not in the country, or he has carefully removed it, for certain it is that not a morsel is to be had, though the country people seem quite willing to sell every thing they have. The principal food we got for our horses was lucerne and clover, large quantities of which were grown around, but in many instances this proved worse than nothing, for such rich green food did not in any way agree with the empty stomachs of our half-famished chargers, and many died from its effects.

We have continued attacks on our camels by the hill-robbers, of whom two large tribes are close about us in the mountains; they

Digitized by Google

have hitherto, however, not succeeded in getting much. But instead of hanging those caught, these political agents step in and say "there is no proof," or that "he is a most respectable man," and generally either do nothing, or else give him rupees to make it up. Nothing can be more absurd than the principle that these gentlemen go upon —that of "conciliation," one which no native understands, much less these barbarians; and who, instead of attributing it to the real motive, place it to fear on our parts: the consequence of which is, that they get bolder and more impudent every day.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER V.

News of Sir John Keane — Chase and Attack of the Hill-robbers — Quetta — Summary Justice — March on Candahar — Difficulties of an Unknown Country — Encampment at Kuchlack — Fighting a Cure for Sickness — Improving Prospects — Dreadful Mortality among the Horses and Camels — Stoppage in a Pass — Great Sufferings of the Army — Fall over a Precipice — Extraordinary Escape of Men and Horses — Great Exertions of the Men — Termination of the Pass — Encampment at Dundi Golai.

March 31*st.*—News at length of Sir J. Keane, who writes that he will be here on the 5th, in company with the Shah; but what has become of his army, and what force he brings, it is difficult to say. The difficulty of communicating is so great, that even the knowledge of where the main body of the army was could not be made out; and excepting a letter taken

Digitized by Google

by an officer and escorted by a regiment of dragoons, not one had a chance of reaching its destination.

An alarm was given about twelve o'clock that some camels had been carried off about three miles from the camp, and a troop of cavalry and some infantry immediately turned out after the plunderers. We heard no more of them for three hours, when a message was brought into camp, asking for more troops as a support, and also bringing a report of the enemy having got into a fortified village. Another troop of cavalry, five companies of the Queen's 13th, and two nine-pounders, immediately moved up at a trot; with whom went my chief, and I with him. After going some four miles, over a villanous road, we met a litter carrying, as we supposed, a wounded man; and great was our martial disappointment at finding the gentleman had only been suddenly taken ill with a pain in his stomach, and was going home to hospital. About the fifth mile we entered the bed of a mountain

Digitized by Google

stream, running between high rocks, on which a spectator told us the Beloochees had made a stand, and had been driven thence by the Sepoys; and after moving up the stream for some 300 yards, we came upon a cultivated valley. This branched off in two directions: one I was sent up to reconnoitre, and up the other the chief himself moved with the main body. I went up about a mile, till, conning of a village, and seeing nothing of the advanced party, I returned, and found orders for us to countermarch, the enemy having taken their departure across the mountains; and the fortified village vanished altogether. So much for our information; and after working our half-starved horses the whole day, our only comfort was being laughed at by those who were wise enough to remain at home.

It seemed that, on the first troop and half company coming up, they had found the Beeloochees strongly posted on either side of the gorge, and hence the sending

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

for support; but the few Sepoys they had with them quickly dispersed these, wounding one or two: and as they moved up one side of the mountain the enemy retreated on the other, to such purpose that they could never afterwards be discovered. The trophies of the fight only amounted to two or three bullock-loads of grain and some blankets, left behind in the hurry of retreat.

The town of Quetta, of which the drawing is a sketch, is beautifully situated in the centre of the valley of Shawl, of which it is the capital. In flourishing seasons there may be some little trade, but at present a more wretched hole cannot be seen. The vale is perfectly flat up to the very base of the mountains, which overhang the town, more or less, nearly on every side, many of them capped with snow; among these the peak of Tukkatoo rises the highest. Gardens of peach, apricot, and other fruit-trees, make a great show around, and streams of running water cross the valley in all directions.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

MUD FORT AND TOWN OF QUETTA.

Published by Henry Colburn, Great Marlborough Street, 1841.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

April 6th.—Sir J. Keane, our Commander-in-chief, joined the army this morning; and, from all accounts, I trust our present state of uncertainty will soon be brought to a conclusion. Instead of letting off these rascals who plunder our rear, he yesterday had ten shot, and to-day has hanged two, and vows he will do the same with any who may be caught in similar mistakes touching *meum* and *tuum*. One of the patrols from the outlying piquet of the 16th being fired upon by some Beeloochees in a small, round fortification, the officer in charge (Y. of the Lancers) immediately dismounted half his piquet, marched up, and stormed the place, killing five, and desperately wounding and taking prisoner a sixth. The enemy fought right well; and our men and their officer seem to have behaved both coolly and with judgment. On first advancing to the place, they were fired upon by matchlocks from the loop-holes, upon which our men seized hold of the barrels, and by main strength

Digitized by Google

wrenched some of them from their hands. They then scaled the tower and unroofed it; in doing which, one soldier was badly wounded through the wrist, and two others narrowly escaped. Even then the fellows refused to surrender, with pistols pointed at their heads; the consequence of which was, the dragoons jumped down among them, and a hand-to-hand battle ensued, in which these poor devils met their end. However, it was a most successful business, and will warn their associates how they again fire on European dragoons.

The first and best order of the Commander-in-chief is to waste no more time here, but to march on to-morrow *en route* for Candahar.

April 7th. — Marched from Quetta to some place with a hard name, leaving behind one brigade of infantry and a regiment and squadron of Shah Suja's forces; the remainder, that is, the whole of the cavalry, two troops of horse-artillery, the 1st brigade of infantry, and some three or four thou-

Digitized by Google

sand of the Shah rabble being with us. It is wonderful that we have really got the artillery through and over the villanous donkey track (for that is the only road in this pleasant country). The first part lay for some four miles across the plain of Quetta, where ran some twenty ditches, deep and full of water; over which the unfortunate artillery horses, who have had nothing to eat except green grass and one or two seer of grain, were expected to pull. We dismounted some dragoons, placed them at the wheels, and regularly shoved them through; but, even with this assistance, we had at one time three horses down in one gun and two in another.

After crossing the plain, we ascended the mountain for some 500 feet, then descended by a very dangerous road (for artillery), perhaps twice as much, and entered another valley very similar to that of Quetta. We encamped at a considerable village totally deserted, and had it not been for some noble fields of young green lucerne,

Digitized by Google

our already half-starved cavalry must have been utterly so. We sent people to the hills, among which the numerous fires shewed the people had retired, to try and persuade them to come back; but in vain—not a man made his appearance. As we are now in an unknown country no tents are sent on in advance, and we begin soldiering in earnest.

This morning Sir W. Cotton's people being first up, they soon knocked up a breakfast, spread a table-cloth on some camel trunks, and under a tree we had as good a breakfast as if we had been in cantonments; and as heartily was it done justice to. After sitting some three hours in the sun (burning hot it was, too) our tents arrived, and we got comfortably established at Kuchlack.

April 8th.—Our route of to-day (twelve miles), was rendered twice the distance by awful ravines, which are continually stopping the column, being many of them as wide as the Thames, with very high and

Digitized by Google

steep sides, which again gave the artillery desperate work. We laid down and had our cloth spread in a beautiful patch of lucerne, and happily there being a cloud over the sun prevented our feeling the want of our tents, which did not arrive on the ground till twelve o'clock; but when they did I pitched in the most beautiful bed of wild crocuses possible, making up for the time lost. The weather is again becoming very hot, and I much fear we shall have serious sickness before we reach Candahar. The only thing to keep us free would be these blackguards standing out, and giving us an opportunity of giving them the thrashing they so richly deserve.

April 9th.—A nominally nine, but really eleven, long mile march to Hykulzye, a considerable village in the valley of Pisheen; before arriving at which, we passed over a low range of sandhills and red sandstone, without a particle of cultivation of any kind. When once in the valley, however, matters mended much. We found a great deal of

532569 Digitized by Google

cultivation, and, moreover, the people remaining in their villages, and having perfect confidence in us. During the day the commissariat got much wheat and flour, but we found scarcely any barley, or any thing for the horses. The celebrated Synds of Pisheen, or descendants of the Prophet, have come into our camp in all directions, bringing every thing they have for sale. The valley is much larger than that of Quetta, and is, I should say, a far richer and better soil. There are quantities of villages in all directions.

It was by a native horse-dealer, and member of one of these families, that Mr. Conolly was rescued from his perilous situation at Herat, conducted safely through all these hostile countries, and treated by the people of this valley in particular with every possible kindness. This had not been lost sight of by our government, and means had been taken for conciliating the inhabitants; which so far succeeded, that instead of going off to the mountains, as

Digitized by Google

all the rest of the people had done, they remained, and brought camels and grain into camp, taking care to cheat us as much as possible, nevertheless.

April 10*th.*—We got over tolerably successfully the first seven miles of to-day's march, not having to cross more than two very dangerous ravines; but at this point we came upon the Lora river, running a rapid shallow stream at the foot of very steep banks, about 100 yards wide. The Sappers and Miners had to cut a very steep and bad road down the bank; which being done, it was found that horses could not manage to pull through it. A working party of 1000 men, therefore, immediately took off their accoutrements, tucked their trousers up, and hauled the guns up and down. This took so much time, that Sir John determined to halt on the bank for the day. We accordingly pitched our little breakfast-tent, which by a good arrangement of ponies we are able to have up, got an excellent breakfast, and had just

Digitized by Google

smoked our first cigars, when down comes an order for the cavalry to move on seven miles further; and in the course of ten minutes the dragoons were in their saddles, and away we went.

We passed over an excellent road, and arrived at this place, Munbee, near Killa Abdullah Khan, about one o'clock. Our tired horses were immediately unbridled and turned into the first green corn-field we could find, and we ourselves lay down by their sides and tried to sleep, in the hope that baggage might some time or other make its appearance. Arnold's luckily arrived in time to prepare dinner, but mine never made its appearance till six in the afternoon, and even then only in part, two of my camels having died in the road; and no wonder, considering that the poor devils had been loaded since four in the morning.

April 11*th.*—The head-quarters and 1st brigade of infantry came in this morning, while we have a most grateful halt both for man and beast. Our loss in cavalry horses

Digitized by Google

is becoming quite dreadful; in one regiment (the 2d) no less than thirty-eight chargers dead, besides twelve not come up; and things are becoming daily worse and worse. This is by far the best place we have yet been in, the people bringing every thing into camp for sale, and I am lucky enough to have been able to get fresh camels for my tents. Grain of all kinds, chopped straw, and sheep and camels, are to be had in any quantity, though at an enormous price.

April 12*th.*—We still remain at this place, the head-quarters and infantry moving ahead this morning. About five miles to our front is a considerable walled garden and fort, which was the residence of Abdullah Khan, governor for the Candahar chiefs of the Pisheen valley; who, however, made himself scarce some time before our arrival, having left this to join Dost Mahommed, in Cabul.

The next march being over the Kojuk pass, one which, though little known, is

Digitized by Google

supposed to be likely to give us some trouble, it has been determined to divide it in half, and to encamp at the entrance of the pass, where we found the infantry and head-quarters had arrived this morning, the 13th. This country is called, *par excellence,* the forest of Khorassan, from some few wretched trees of a species of dwarf ash that spring up around us; which, however, to the Affghans, who know not a tree with the exception of fruit-trees, are a marvel. "You have not such trees as those in Hindoostan, I know," said an Affghan, who had never left his country, to one who had travelled to Calcutta; to which the traveller replied, winking at me, "Oh, no! I *never* saw such trees before."

The mountains from this, frown down in all directions, three or four thousand feet above us.

April 14*th.*—The pass having yesterday evening been reported practicable, Sir J. Keane and his people started at three this morning, leaving orders for the cavalry to

Digitized by Google

march at twelve; by which time, it was supposed, all the baggage and artillery with them would be over: but at eleven comes an order to say that not only were they not passed, but that if they got over by night it was all that could be expected; therefore we were not to march until three tomorrow.

April 15*th.*—According to orders, at three this morning we moved up the dry bed of a mountain-torrent, the shingle of which was shorter, smaller, and less disagreeable than the Bolan pass. After some six miles of this, and about two miles from the worst part of the pass, we came to a stand-still, to our horror, by the tail of the baggage of the yesterday's brigade, which completely blocked up the passage before us. Several thousand camels, carts, ponies, camp-followers, and baggage of all descriptions, formed apparently an impassable barrier to our further advance. But it is in a case of difficulty that the pluck and endurance of the Englishman get him

Digitized by Google

through, and at this time the men's labour only began. We had first to move by main force (the bullocks being quite knocked up) fourteen hackeries, loaded chiefly with bazar ladies and trumpery. This was accompanied by pitching them and their fair freight on to the bank above the road, and there propping them up with large stones; then pricking the camels and their drivers with lances, and stopping the rear and shoving on the advanced ones. This was a labour of some difficulty, there being only room for one animal to pass at a time between the rocks; and many of them having been there for eight-and-thirty hours, could not be moved quite so quick as could be wished. I spoke to one unfortunate gentleman officer, who had been on the ground where I saw him since four o'clock yesterday morning, being more than six-and-twenty hours, without a morsel to eat or drink, and moreover with the happy prospect of its continuing for some hours longer.

Digitized by Google

At last, however, we made a way for ourselves, and then began the real and serious difficulties. The first part was up a road cut in the side of a nearly perpendicular hill, and in itself little better. Fortunately, however, there was not more than three hundred yards *very* steep. We dismounted the whole of the 16th Lancers, made the seyces (grooms) hold their horses, and by main force and flogging of the wretched artillery horses accomplished the business. The first four guns and their tumbrels accomplished the ascent in safety; but not so the fifth;—the near wheel-horse jibbed, and, in spite of the excellent driving of his rider, managed to get himself and the near wheel of the gun over the side of the precipice. Even then they had nearly got them back again by sending all the men to the opposite side; but, unfortunately, the other wheeler was beat, and all force proved ineffectual. To our horror we saw first one wheel, then a part, and afterwards the whole of the other, go over the precipice, till the hinder part

Digitized by Google

of the carriage gave one tremendous jerk, pulled horses, men, and every thing over the side, and rolled over and over amidst the crashing of stones and branches of trees, at the feet of some of the astounded 2d Cavalry below. They had attempted to cut the traces, but too late; and we therefore expected to have found every man and horse killed. But to our delight on coming up to the fallen gun, we found that nothing was in the least hurt, save the wheel of the carriage, which was smashed to atoms; the horses and men escaping in the most wonderful manner.

We thought that, having arrived at the top of the mountain, we had surmounted the difficulty; but soon found to our cost that, not only had we not arrived at the crest of the pass, but that we had still a fearful descent, and afterwards a worse mountain to ascend and descend than the one we had already accomplished. However, in about two hours they had rigged a new wheel to the broken gun, and

Digitized by Google

the men, taking off their arms, accoutrements, and every thing but their shirts, set their shoulders with that willingness which good discipline will always give; and by twelve o'clock the guns and ammunition wagons were safely landed at the foot of the Gaute. The poor men, after all their tremendous labour, when they arrived could not get a drop of water; and the ration of raw spirits, which at the moment was the only thing that could be got at (a camel having luckily dropped dead with his load), only made their thirst greater, and the poor fellows' sufferings more intense.

As soon as we arrived at the place where the camp was pitched, we found even there little or no water; and what little there was, was so muddy, that even the wretched horses would not touch it: so Colonel Arnold immediately mounted and rode on three miles further, to Sir J. Keane, and explained the absolute necessity of moving on at any price, although not only was

Digitized by Google

scarcely any of the baggage yet up, but there was very small prospect of seeing it for the next two days; the more so, as that terrible pass had killed many camels, and the whole road was strewed with baggage. As this was a very minor evil, Sir J. immediately ordered us on, and away we went this morning (the 16th). I, and the rest of our party, are among the very few who have as yet seen one particle of their property; and as we heard many shots in the pass, and the rear-guard of cavalry have sent back for a support of infantry, I should think the chance of seeing it *safe* but a very small one.

The Candahar Sirdars had originally intended to have defended this pass, which they might easily have done, and given us much annoyance; but we rather took them by surprise, being two or three days further in advance than their highnesses calculated upon. However, so close was it, that a small reconnoitring party which had

Digitized by Google

pushed forward from the last halting-ground, discovered, on nearing the top, a small body of apparently well-mounted horsemen, who, as soon as they discovered our party, saluted them with a shot or two; but on seeing that our people were well supported, they retired, and could be seen riding hard on the Candahar road, for the purpose, it was supposed, of raising the whole country to the rescue, by the news that the Feringees already possessed their strongest post.

We marched this morning over a desert country for eighteen long miles, and not seeing an appearance of water or cultivation we began to give up every thing for lost, when we came suddenly upon a large tank of water, and on looking further discovered a small stream, and, moreover, some little cultivation. We immediately took up the lines, and in the course of an hour were safely encamped on very good ground at Dundi Golai.

Digitized by Google

The weather has again become dreadfully hot, the thermometer standing, even when the tents were pitched, at 98°; and as we had to sit in the sun for two hours before they could come up, the heat may be better fancied than described.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER VI.

Luxury of a Clean Shave—A Halt—Approach of the Affghan Army—They turn the Course of a Stream—The Talleyrand of the East—Great Suffering for want of Water—Retreat of the Affghan Army—Plenty after Want—Candahar abandoned by the Native Chiefs—No Chance of a Battle—Splendid Situation of Candahar—Influence of the British Name—Entry into Candahar—Riches of the Valley—Character of the City—Enthusiastic Reception of the Shah—Grand Inspection of British Troops by the Shah—Grand Entertainments.

April 17*th.*—Remained in quiet at this place, and for the first time for three days had a comfortable shave, and clean water to wash in; luxuries, the value of which is not known till one has been totally without them.

April 18*th.*—The head-quarters and Sir W. Cotton joined us to-day, though not as we expected with the heavy train and

Digitized by Google

two infantry brigades; it being found impossible, even with the entire of three infantry regiments harnessed to the guns, to get over more than one eighteen-pounder and two large mortars in the whole of yesterday. We shall therefore remain another day or two, at least, at this place.

April 19*th.*—Remained in peace all the morning; but about four this afternoon comes news of the chiefs of Candahar having advanced to Killa Futtullah, within fourteen miles of this place, with 3000 Affghan horse and nearly every chief of any influence in the country. The piquets have been accordingly doubled, and every precaution taken to prevent a night-surprise; which, although with our force it could not do any very serious harm, might nevertheless occasion much confusion among the baggage and camp followers. The rascals having had the impudence to turn the course of a small stream which brought water to the camp, a body of infantry and two squadrons of cavalry have been

Digitized by Google

sent up to the source to re-turn it, and keep it for the future.

April 20th.—A considerable body of horse having made their appearance this morning near the outlying piquets of the 16th, they were found to belong to Hajee Khan Kaker, an influential chief in the mountains near this, who has come to join the Shah.

This celebrated chief, called "the Talleyrand of the East," commands a considerable force among the wild tribes who inhabit the mountain districts between Candahar and the Indus; and in this instance his desertion, we afterwards found out, from the force of the Candahar Sirdars, had so disheartened them as to make them retreat on the capital again faster than they came, and from thence to retire beyond the Helmund. He brought with him from 200 to 300 horse, and many professions of esteem; of which last, I suppose, no soul believes a word. He has, however, been taken into favour, and placed near the

Digitized by Google

person of the Shah; in hopes, I conclude, that others may follow his example.

April 21*st.*—We hear very bad accounts from the rear of the passage of the heavy battering train over the Kosuk pass; only two eighteen-pounders and a mortar having been got over in the course of yesterday, though three regiments of infantry have been attached to the guns.

April 23*d.*—Once more moved forward, making a march of eleven miles, to a small bare valley, with a fort at the end of it, now deserted, called Futtullah. For a day before leaving Dundi Golai, the Affghans had cut off the supply of water, so that we (the officers) had had very little and the soldiers less; and our horror and sufferings may be better imagined than described, when we found that not only was there scarcely any water in the place, but that what there was, was so brackish as to be barely drinkable, and that drinking it only increased one's thirst. The little one's bheesty (water-carrier) was able to obtain, the soldiers immediately

Digitized by Google

seized in passing through their lines; and one could not find it in one's heart to say anything to the poor fellows, who had had even harder work than ourselves. The whole day the sufferings of the camp were very great, the thermometer standing in my tent at 100°, and nothing but this trash to drink, the horses not being able to get any.

The marks of the camp of the retreating Sirdars, close to ours, were very fresh. They must, from the space they occupied, have been good 3000 horse; but I much fear the rascals will never have heart to actually come to the scratch.

April 24th.—It was intended that we should march but ten miles, to a place called Malunanda; but on arriving there we found so little water, that Col. Arnold determined to save some part of his brigade from dying of thirst, and therefore applied to move on until we arrived at the river Turnuk, known to be somewhere ahead. Accordingly on and on we went; till, after going some twenty

Digitized by Google

miles, we did at length come in sight of the river, running a considerable stream under a line of low hills some three miles lower down; and seeing some cultivation near, on which we could feed the cavalry horses, down we went direct to it. Never do I remember a happier scene than that which now presented itself. Both men and horses made one common rush at the water, got their noses and faces into it, and drank enough to burst themselves; for, independently of being two days as good as without water, we had now marched four-and-twenty miles under a burning sun, and had not a prospect of seeing our tents up before night.

Our little tent, carried on ponies, happily arrived in good time, and we got breakfast by half-past two or three o'clock; which, it may be supposed, we did ample justice to, not having tasted anything for twenty-four hours, and having been seven hours on horseback. I am sorry to say our sick-list has very much increased, the 16th having

Digitized by Google

already nearly ninety men in hospital, and the prospect of its daily becoming worse, with not more than half the requisite quantity of carriage for them. The thermometer stands to day at 97°, and I do not think I ever felt heat more oppressive. I think yesterday I should have sunk under it, had it not been for a delightful bathe in the river. But I must say I have great reason to be thankful to my constitution, which has hitherto stood well against all the changes and *désagrémens* of this long march; and so far I never felt better in my life.

April 24th.—The mortality among the cavalry horses, what between want of food, fears of attack and consequent patrolling, and these awful marches we have been obliged to make, has been dreadful to-day: fifty-nine horses have been returned this morning dead; and many more, I fear, will not leave the ground. In fact, our whole brigade is utterly knocked up and inefficient, many days having now elapsed since corn had passed the lips of most of

Digitized by Google

our unfortunate cavalry horses, who had to carry some twenty stone on their backs at the same time. Under such circumstances, whilst bad grass was their only food, it cannot be wondered at that they should sink under the privations they endured. Most of the men were made to walk and lead their steeds, the best being reserved for the use of those of the sick, for whom a sufficiency of doolies and bearers could not always be found; many of the latter having run away, and the remainder being utterly disgusted with the whole expedition. Our own horses scarcely fared better, for though we gave almost the animal's weight in silver for corn of any kind, it seldom of late could be had for love or money; and even the little there was, being generally wheat, required to be boiled and very carefully given, as it otherwise is apt to swell so much in the animal as at times to burst his inside: and more horses than one were killed by this not being properly attended to.

Digitized by Google

April 25th.—Marched at half-past two to be joined by the infantry and artillery at their camp, six miles in advance. We came up there about four o'clock, narrowly escaped being shot by their outlying piquets, halted till they joined us on the other side, and then moved on in battle array, with skirmishers on both flanks and strong advance guards, in case the Sirdars should take heart and attack. But no such luck.

About half-way we met a messenger from Mr. Macnaghten to Sir J. Keane, who brought a letter saying that the Candahar chiefs had abandoned the city, two having retreated into Persia and one upon Cabul, leaving the way open for us, and at once destroying all hopes of a row. This news has made the Shah quite bold, even to his going so far as to trust himself alone with his own people, and to march on ahead of us; and right glad we are to get rid of him and his ragamuffin tail. There is no pleasure, however, without its pain; for we found on arriving at our ground, that, na-

Digitized by Google

tive prince like, he had turned all his camels, sheep, elephants, horses, and every thing, into the noble crops of standing barley: which, of course, wasted far more than they could consume, leaving nothing for us to glean after him.

We found our ground marked out near a considerable village, entirely, however, deserted by its inhabitants. The system of building houses in this country is to us entirely new, the huts being generally circular, with globe roofs, making the villages appear like a large collection of beehives.

At length we have indeed come upon cultivation, the crops around us being as fine as possible; and if this continue as far as Candahar, even should there not be much grain at present in the town, when once the harvest comes in, abundance must be forthcoming. The unfortunate Candahar Sirdars have been deserted by nearly all their followers, and have not been able to collect more than 200 horse, and but little of their property.

Digitized by Google

April 26th.—Marched with the whole force to Kooshab, several small villages, surrounded by a mass of the most luxuriant and beautiful cultivation I ever beheld; and it went to one's heart to see part of our line placed (as far as I could see, without any necessity) in the centre of a superb field of barley. The entrance to the valley in which Candahar itself stands is within a mile of the camp, and in a clear day the city might be seen from this. As far as one can judge from this, nothing can be finer than the situation of Candahar. It stands in the centre of a valley, formed by a very high range of mountains at the back, and two lower ranges on this side, which divide in front of us, leaving a passage into it about a mile in width, through which the road runs. The whole is watered by many small streams, the consequence of which is that the country, for its extent, is one, I should think, of the richest in the world.

The Shah entered Candahar to-day, and greatly must he congratulate himself. After

Digitized by Google

having been three times beaten in pitched battles in attempting to recover his kingdom, the very influence of our name has now given it to him without a blow being struck.

April 27th.—The head-quarters moved on to Candahar, leaving our two brigades and the artillery here, the water not having yet been brought to our proposed encamping-ground. General report from head-quarters, who went into the town yesterday, announces the appearance of an abundance of grain and supplies of all kinds; and I therefore trust that all our most severe difficulties are at an end.

April 28th.—Moved from Rooshab to Candahar. We left Rooshab at three in the morning, therefore I did not see much of the entrance to the valley; but as daylight broke we found ourselves among a mass of cultivation and villages, Candahar itself standing near the northern side of the valley, under a range of high rocky mountains. It seemed a very large city,

Digitized by Google

surrounded with a good mud wall and ditch, over which the minarets and domes of the tomb of Ahmed Shah Dooranee rose in the morning sun. The town is surrounded on all sides by walled fruit-gardens, filled with trees of the mulberry, peach, nectarine, and vine, all of which in another month will be ripe. Candahar, in spite of the villany of its rulers and the maladministration to which it has been so long subjected, must produce very largely; the whole district being covered with villages on every side, through which streams of water run in every direction. The corn will be ripe in the course of a month, and now presents a beautiful scene of verdure on all sides.

We pitched our camp on a pleasant green spot, about a mile and a half from the city, under the walls of a considerable village, entirely inhabited by Synds. Here we are to stop for some time, both to recruit our exhausted cavalry and artillery, and to get supplies for our further advance on Cabul.

Digitized by Google

April 29th.—Rode through the city this evening with some brother-officers. The bazars are very extensive, running at right angles completely through the town, and meeting at an arched dome in the centre. Fruits and even vegetables are to be had in almost any quantity, and, for the first time since leaving Hindoostan, we have had excellent salads, beans, and tarts,—luxuries which I never properly appreciated till now. To our poor soldiers, who from having been almost exclusively fed on dry meat and bread, which has brought the scurvy among them, it is even a greater comfort than to ourselves. Lucerne for our horses can be also got in any quantity; and tea and some little sugar, direct from China overland, for ourselves. But, alas! barley and grain are both dear, and in small quantities; and thus the poor cavalry horses are little better off than before.

The people in the town are most civil, and received the Shah when he entered in the most enthusiastic manner. He and

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

[illegible] 20th.—Rode through the city this [illegible] with some brother-officers. The [illegible] extensive, running at right [illegible] through the town, and [illegible] domed in the centre. [illegible] vegetables are to be had in [illegible] quantity, and, for the first time [illegible] leaving Hindoostan, we have had excellent salads, beans, and tarts,—luxuries which I never properly appreciated till now. To our poor soldiers, who from having been almost exclusively fed on dry [illegible] which has brought the [illegible] them, it is even a greater [illegible] to ourselves. Lucerne for [illegible] also got in any quantity; [illegible] little sugar, direct from [illegible] for ourselves. But, alas! [illegible] are both dear, and in small [illegible] thus the poor cavalry horses are [illegible] off than before.

[illegible] in the town are most civil, and [illegible] Shah when he entered in the most enthusiastic manner. He and

Digitized by Google

CANDAHAR FROM THE BENGAL CAMP.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Mr. Macnaghten, the resident, have taken up their residence in the town, in the palace of the Sirdars. They talked very patriotically at one time of giving this up for a hospital, but finding it hot outside they took care of No. 1, and left the sick to their fate.

May 1*st.* — Col. Arnold thought that a more plentiful supply of forage could be found for his brigade, and persuaded Sir J. Keane to let the cavalry brigade move five or six miles into the country; and we accordingly started this morning to the valley on the other side the range of rocky heights under which Candahar stands. We have pitched oursselves on a beautiful green meadow, on the bank of a fine stream of running water; but though we ourselves are better off, yet I doubt if our troops are, and I should not be surprised at their being ordered in again.

May 2*d,* 3*d, and* 4*th.*—Remained quietly at this place, and as the regimental committees have been active and lucky in getting barley and some fresh horses, I trust

Digitized by Google

that the troops will again pick up, and that I shall once more see this fine regiment, the 16th Lancers, look as it ought to do.

May 5th.—Rode into Candahar this morning to breakfast with Sir J. Keane, and make my bow to my Colonel (C. of the 17th). We arrived just in time to see the Bombay army come in, and for its strength a very fine one it is. The 4th Dragoon horses it was quite a pleasure to see, after our skeletons; though their horse-artillery, in point of flesh, were quite as bad as our own. My own corps, the 17th, seemed a very good one; as did the 2d Queen's: though both are very weak from sickness and casualties. I made my bow to my Colonel, and then returned to Sir John's good breakfast. Remained in his son's tent the remainder of the day, and returned in the evening, with an invite for Tuesday to dine with my regiment.

May 7th.—In consequence of his majesty Shah Suja having taken it into his head to wish to see the forces, we came

Digitized by Google

back to Candahar this morning, in order to be present at a grand review and ceremonial to be given in his honour to-morrow. We have taken up our ground on the right of the Bombay Infantry. We are encamped under some very fine mulberry trees, loaded with fruit, in the midst of a lucerne field eaten off.

May 8th.—Marched out about three miles to a fine plain on the north of the city, orders having been given for the regiments to march independently to the ground. We, with the 16th, arrived there about daylight, and found the remainder of the army in line or getting into it. The Bengal column took the right, and the Bombay army the left. A throne under a canopy had been erected for the Shah about a quarter of a mile in front, under which he was happily housed by sunrise, when we presented arms and then wheeled into open columns of squadrons and companies, to march past. The king was surrounded by his loving subjects and

Digitized by Google

ragamuffin soldiers, but by very few men of real rank or consequence. After we had saluted we rode up to the side of the throne, and saw the army march past; and it really did one's heart good to see how beautifully they turned out after the hard work and difficulties they have had. On their parades at Meerutt they never looked better than did most of the corps. In particular my own corps, the 17th, set an example which could not be improved upon, and which I am certain has never been surpassed, considering the work all had gone through: for the Sepoys in particular, so entirely contrary to their usual habits and prejudices.

Nothing, in fact, could appear better than the whole army; but from fear or dislike to the Shah, few, if any, of the men of influence in the country were present, and thus the good effect, which, seeing how little hard work, or the natural difficulties of their country had impaired either the discipline or appearance of our troops,

Digitized by Google

was lost. Colonel Arnold having a short time before this appointed me his extra aide-de-camp, I did not join my own corps. Nor must I forget my old friends the 16th, who, in spite of their horses and many losses, managed to turn out three very fine squadrons; considering their hard work, looking splendidly. Much rivalry, of course, existed between the armies of Bombay and Bengal; all, however, in the best possible spirit, — not a rivalry of individuals, but one where each person was anxious to prove his own army more equal to the service than that of the rival presidency. An unprejudiced person, which in fact I am one of the few who can properly be called so, being actually attached to neither of the services, my regiment being with one army while I am attached to the other, might be allowed to say a little in favour of both.

On the Bengal side, the Sepoy has by far the advantage in personal beauty and height, and is generally better dressed

Digitized by Google

than the others; but against this you must place the few prejudices and easier supplied wants of him of Bombay; and while you give every merit to the Bengal soldiers, you must yet acknowledge that for hard service the latter *are to be preferred.*

There had been a grand programme laid down, a very conspicuous part of which was, "And the Shah's subjects will now present nurzers (offerings of homage) to his majesty." But, unfortunately, when the review was over, and this part of the play expected to be acted, behold no subjects were to be found, or none that had any money for the Shah. In fact, I fear our taking him by the hand is a failure. He has no power whatever except from us, and he has really no men of rank about him. No money being forthcoming was so far fortunate for us, that we got out of the sun two hours sooner than we should otherwise have done, and we all started for a grand breakfast at Sir A. B.'s Iced

Digitized by Google

champagne and claret was the order of the whole day, and we did not separate till nightfall, when we left B. for a public dinner in honour of the Shah's coronation. A most select party—all the generals and brigadiers in the force; and it was kept up till very late, some of the party being placed on camels, and sent home in a happy state of utter unconsciousness.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER VII.

Intense Heat—Change of Weather—Dreadful Murder of a British Officer—Arrival of Supplies—Resumption of the March—Departure from Candahar—A suspicious Rencontre—Hard Duty—False Reports—A famous Arrow-shot—A difficult Pass — Kelât — Change of Climate — Doubtful Policy—Night Marching—News of Dost Mahommed—An Impudent Message — Plentiful Supplies —Execution of a Native—Approach to Ghuznee —A Skirmish—Prospect of a Battle—Arrival at Ghuznee — A long Shot — Commencement of the Attack of Ghuznee—Perilous Situation of the Army.

May 20th.—The heat now beats anything I almost ever felt, the thermometer standing in tents without tattees from 100° to 110°; and, of course, no one can go out in the sun except at the risk of his life.

May 22d.—A change has come over the earth, and a cool and pleasant breeze has

Digitized by Google

succeeded the scorching hot winds of these last few days.

May 30*th.*—A sad thing occurred last night in the shape of the murder of an officer of the 16th Lancers, Mr. Invararity. He had been spending the day out at the Argundaub river, about six miles from this, and had got about a mile on his route on his way home, about nine at night; he had moved on a little ahead of his companion, leading his horse. Beyond this all is conjecture, as he was not again seen alive; but, from the appearances, his assailants seem to have knocked him down first with stones, and then every man to have cut at him when down. His head was completely split open, and the muscles of the entire back divided, besides one hand very nearly cut off. His companion, Captain Wilmer, on arriving at the spot, was much surprised by fellows shying stones at him. He began talking to them, when they immediately charged him sword-in-hand, some twenty in number. Luckily, the path was

Digitized by Google

narrow, and but one man could come on at a time. He therefore warded off two sword-cuts of this first man with his stick, and the robber luckily stumbling and falling, gave him an opportunity to turn about and run for it; which he did, and succeeded in reaching a small body of the Shah's troops, quartered about a mile to his rear, and the officer in command immediately sent a party out, while Wilmer rode direct for a doctor. But the Shah's party arrived scarcely in time to find poor Invararity alive, and he expired before the doctor arrived. They are well-known professional thieves, but have not yet learnt what the natives of India know so well—that no European carries money about with him. They searched the waistband of his trousers and the inside of his boots, thinking he would of course carry his money there, not finding it elsewhere.

June 25th.—A kafilah (caravan) of 3000 camel-loads of grain, for which we have had the pleasure of waiting for the last

Digitized by Google

three weeks, having arrived to-day, we have at length received the long-expected and hoped-for order of march, and I trust we shall at last get out of this infernal hole on Thursday. It is really most necessary to do so at almost any price, for the stench has become such, from dead animals of all kinds, as completely to infect the air, in spite of every precaution, heated as it naturally is, the thermometer having averaged 106° for this last fortnight, in tents without tattees (green thorns with water thrown over them, through which the air is allowed to blow, and thus cooled). We all soon got very tired of our life of inaction to which we were doomed while here, for as to moving far from camp, it was as much as one's life was worth; as to giving dinners and seeing one's friends, that could not be done for the best of all reasons, that wine and beer were not to be had; and, with the exception of an occasional review, bargaining for camels and horses, and a daily ride for exercise sake, nothing could be done, and

Digitized by Google

when the day arrived for our onward march it was gladly welcomed. Some smaller expeditions were made while we remained here by different detachments against petty risings among the people, which usually ended in some heads being cut off, and the people flying to the mountains. The only one of any size was one undertaken to dislodge one of the former rulers of Candahar, who had come to a halt at Girisk, a valley about six marches from this, and there carried on intrigues for his reinstatement to power. It was conducted by General Sale with his usual judgment, and was so far successful that the prince fled to Herat, leaving the place at our mercy; which, after being taken possession of, was garrisoned by a detachment, and the force returned to Candahar.

June 27th.—At last left Candahar this morning, with the first division, consisting of the two brigades of cavalry and Alexander's corps of local horse, two troops of horse-artillery, and one brigade of

Digitized by Google

infantry (General Sale's). The Shah is to form the second division with his people, the remainder of the Bengal army the third, and the Bombay army the fourth: the last, will leave Candahar on the 30th.

The only thing we have cause to regret in quitting this place, is the fruit, which, as far as the melons and grapes go, is really excellent. We have left behind as the garrison, one regiment of the Shah's infantry, one of cavalry, one of our own native corps, and one troop of horse artillery; little enough to keep in order a population only half-subdued like that of Candahar. Our troop of artillery is to be relieved by the Shah's, left behind at Quetta; and the regiment of infantry by another unfortunate from the same place. I say unfortunate, for I never was so sick of any place in my life.

We marched but six miles the first day to a miserably barren spot, called Abdulah Azeez, having nothing but brackish, bad water. The heat beat any thing I ever felt

Digitized by Google

in my life, and the hot winds blew as bad as in Bengal, the thermometer never falling below 107° in the hospital tents of the 16th.

June 28*th.*—Our fresh encampment was at a small square fort, built on a small stream of bad water, called Killa Azim (ten miles). As we came up to our place in the line, a large body of horse were seen about a mile to our front rapidly approaching. One of the piquets immediately went after them by Brigadier Arnold's orders, and, riding rapidly for a short distance parallel with their worships, we brought up our right shoulders at a gallop, and at once intercepted their path. Captain W., the brigade-major who commanded the party, spoke to the leaders, demanded their business, and ordered them to turn back and answer for themselves to the Chief. This, after a little hesitation, they did; and, proving themselves to be merely part of the Ghilghie tribe going to make their salaam to the Shah, they were allowed to

Digitized by Google

move on in peace, and we retired to breakfast.

June 29th.—Marched at one in the morning for the Turnuk river, up which we move to Ghuznee. The fine moonlight, and cool bracing air of the mountains, very different up here from the heated plains of Candahar, made even this long step of seventeen or eighteen miles most pleasant; and, as I am a good sleeper in the middle of the day, I do not care about marching all night. The Turnuk at our encamping ground is a fine, rapid, clear stream, with much cultivation on either bank; and the ditches filled with water for the irrigation of this, made getting to Sir A. Burnes's to dinner (to do which we had to cross several) by no means an easy matter. The road at this place is so narrow as to prevent the passage of guns, but an artificial one is easily made in the cultivation below.

June 30th.—Much confusion in getting out of camp this morning, in consequence of the narrowness of the road. It ran to-day

Digitized by Google

along the high bank of the river, and in one place was very bad indeed for guns, and requiring much labour to render passable. The whole valley of the Turnuk, up which we passed, is richly cultivated wherever the soil will allow; which, however, is no great quantity.

We arrived at our encamping ground on the river, at a place called Shelim Shaffa, some thirteen miles, before sunrise, and had all our things up by nine o'clock.

July 2d.—Some reports of a gathering of the Ghilgie tribe ahead having arrived; the piquets, already strong enough, have been strengthened by a regiment of cavalry. I conclude that Sir John has some very good reasons, of which we know nothing, for the extraordinary hard duty he is now giving the cavalry, and does not set down, as we have long since learned to do, a piece of political information as almost necessarily a mistake. No less than 325 men of the 16th, the whole of the 2d, and a large portion of the 3d Cavalry, were on duty yesterday;

Digitized by Google

which, if continued, will soon knock up both men and horses. We have never yet found any one piece of information, furnished either by the Shah's people or our own politicals, correct; and, to say truth, nothing can be worse than the whole system. We have long since set down any report sent in by either party as information which we would be very cautious in attending to, hearing on all sides of 5000 men having assembled here, and 7000 collected there, when one has nothing to do but to use one's common sense, and to look around at the wretched country, and see at once how impossible it is for any chief, even had he the money, to collect half the number, even if he took every peasant from his field.

Our march to-day has been divided, and we nominally had but to move nine miles; but scarcely had the first five been got over, when we came to a place under which the Turnuk ran, where the road was but seven feet wide, with a perpendicular fall to the river of several hundred feet. This being

Digitized by Google

impassable for the artillery, a halt was sounded, and for two hours we amused ourselves by watching the cheerful performances of the Sappers in widening it. This I, as well as most others, soon got tired of; and, wrapping ourselves in our cloaks, we laid down on horse-cloths, and snoozed most comfortably till awoke by the cold of the dawn. At length the road was made sufficiently wide, the artillery was dragged up the ascent, and we passed through the bed of the river by a somewhat dangerous passage through the quicksands, which form on what apparently is the firmest ground immediately, in this country, after a few horses have passed over. We found we had about ten miles to go after this, which brought us to our ground late, and our camels did not reach us till near one.

July 1*st*.—The three marches following the last, of twelve, fifteen, and fourteen miles, have been divided into four, and we therefore stopped short of the regular halting-place, and encamped at a pillar said to

Digitized by Google

have been erected in commemoration of a celebrated arrow shot from the top of a hill above our camp, performed by that great hero, Ahmed Shah Dooranee.

July 3d.—A short march of nine miles to Julduk, encamping by the side of the river amidst fine crops of standing wheat and barley. Our road lay, as usual, along the foot of the low range of hills that bound the valley of the Turnuk on either side; and it was, in some places, crossed by very deep and bad ravines.

After leaving Candahar the country, as long as we remained in the valley of the Turnuk river, improved much from that we had been accustomed to since leaving our own provinces; though still had we the bad luck to move out of the low country and take to the hills, either to avoid a bad piece of road or any other purpose, it immediately became as bad as ever—the old, wretched, and desolate stony track being again resumed. Happily, however, this has not of late been much resorted to; and,

Digitized by Google

excepting in one or two cases like the present, we seem to have abandoned the old country of desolation,—villages and corn fields, neither few nor far between, usurping their place.

July 4th.—As usual, at two A.M. we got under way, and for the first two miles nothing could be much worse than our road, running along the high, steep, shingly banks overhanging the river, in many places barely wide enough for the wheels of the nine-pounders. At length, in one of the worst places, one of the guns upset; and, before it could be again placed on its legs, two hours had been lost to the remainder of the column, the road not being wide enough for the passage of cavalry by them; during which time we laid ourselves down for a nap. After passing this, with the exception of one very bad and steep ravine, at which we had to take the horses from the guns and haul them up by manual labour, the road onwards to Kelât-e-Ghilgie was tolerably good.

Digitized by Google

Kelât is situated on the northern side of the valley, and, like the rest of the Turnuk valley, is rich in cultivation. The town, or rather village, is a miserable assemblage of huts, protected by a small mud fort, which might perhaps be able, on a pinch, to turn out twenty horse. So much for the thousands some expected to see! An isolated rock, on which the old Ghilgie fort once stood, but which has long since gone to decay, would now afford a fine position for a small body of troops; and must, when the fort was in existence, have been a strong and important place, commanding as it does all the principal roads throughout this very defensible country.

Our new camp is formed about a mile beyond the old fortress, where, I conclude, we shall halt at least a day, and give some little rest, which they so much require, to our wearied men and animals. The climate has now become delightful; even in the middle of the day the thermometer does not rise to above 85° or 90°, and the morn-

Digitized by Google

ings and nights are quite cold,—our present camp being nearly 5000 feet above the sea.

July 5th.—The Shah and his people came in this morning, catching us by our halt here—most grateful to all.

While we remained here he caused a wretched prisoner or two, whom his people had caught, to be blown from the mouths of cannon; a mode of death, perhaps, the quickest and least cruel of any: one of the unfortunates, the only one I saw executed, being blown to shivers in a second; his legs and head, both severed from the trunk, being the only portions we could recognise afterwards as having belonged to the human form. The wretch was tied, standing on the ground, with his back to the mouth of the cannon, and met his end with the same philosophy that most natives evince on those occasions.

July 6th.—As usual, left Kelât-e-Ghilgie at two this morning, and continued up the right bank of the Turnuk for some twelve miles to Sar-e-Ash; where we found our-

Digitized by Google

selves encamped in crops of standing barley, for which poor John Company will have to pay. If I were the Commander-in-chief, not a penny should the rascals get. They steal our camels, murder our soldiers and people, do us all the harm they possibly can, and then, forsooth, we are to protect the fields!

July 7th and 8th.—The next march to Tazee, of sixteen long miles, has been happily divided into half; and we have made two very easy ones instead. To-day, the 8th, we have marched at half-past three, instead of two—giving us an hour and a half extra sleep, and which we shall be obliged to continue while we have no moon; it being quite impossible to march in the dark in this country of ravines.

July 9th and 10th.—Chasmer Shadee, or Moolla Shadee, was the next place marked down in the routes; but proving to be sixteen, instead of twelve miles, it has been divided into two, and we arrived at this place late this morning. The proper encamping ground is at a beautiful spring,

Digitized by Google

from which the place takes its name, being called in English "the Spring of Delight;" but the water not being sufficient for all our horses and animals, they have brought us down to the river's bank, and encamped us under a high, conical hill, among some villanous ravines, which places one's tent comfortably at an angle of 45°.

News came to Sir A. Burnes this morning that the Dost had determined to fight it out, and had ordered his son to get round to our rear to attack us there, and then to make his retreat into Ghuznee, to defend that as long as he could, and afterwards to make his way to join them at Cabul. To all of which all I can say is, that if he does get round to our rear, I wish he may get back again; and if he once gets well shut up in Ghuznee, I wish he may get out again! But, however good the information may be, we have already experienced too much of these heroes' bravadoes to be very sanguine of their ever awaiting our arrival, or coming near us if they can help it. However, I

Digitized by Google

trust they may; for nothing would have so good an effect, both to politics and to our name, as our giving these gentlemen a thorough good thrashing, and teaching them to know our power and their own utter insignificance.

July 11*th.*—To Chopur, a nominal march of twelve miles; being found to be nineteen instead, and it was accordingly divided, encamping near some fine kureez (lines of wells, with an arch between), surrounded by immense fields of standing corn, about eight miles from our old ground.

The chief of the Ghilgie tribe had the impudence to send a message to Burnes last night, saying "that he was here with a large body of horse, but that, in his mercy, he would not molest us if we did not touch him; and that, if we sent him a large sum of money, he would *protect* us on the march!" Sir J. Keane has sent out a strong reconnoitring party to find out where they are, and all are in hopes that they will remain, and that in the afternoon we shall be ordered

Digitized by Google

to surround them. The party came in about two in the afternoon; but, as usual, without doing much good. The whole party had made their escape into the mountains to the north of this, at twelve o'clock last night, leaving no trace behind them.

July 14*th.*—The longest march we have had for some time, to Mookour, or Mukloor, as it is called in the map, where we encamped in a noble plain, filled with villages, corn-fields, and beautiful cultivation on all sides. This was the place (so the "lies of the day" reported) that the Dost meant to make his battle-field, and it was said that he intended to place out of our reach all the forage and corn which could be collected here. However, either he has not had the power or time to do this, or did not wish to exasperate our government more against him; for every kind of supply in the shape of corn, lucerne, and native vegetables, has been brought in by the natives in greater quantities, and cheaper, than we have found them since leaving Hindoostan. Barley is

Digitized by Google

selling at 24 seers (48 lbs.) per rupee, and flour at 15 (30 lbs.), which is more than we got even at Simlah last hot weather.

The people all seem a finer and better class than those of Candahar, and at present are most friendly to us. This encampment is partly on a fine meadow at the source of the river Turnuk (which, I am sorry to say, we now take leave of), and partly amidst standing corn, fields of lucerne, and the mud Affghan villages without number: our own little camp being among the said crops, and under the finest black poplar I ever saw.

July 15th.—Remained the day at this place for the purpose of collecting grain and supplies to fill up the empty bags, which they have been most successful in doing, enabling them to again put our poor servants upon full rations.

July 16th.—For my poor sick chief, Col. Arnold's sake, I was sorry to find another long march in to-day, still up this noble valley, and the peasantry continuing to

Digitized by Google

bring in lucerne and every kind of supply in great quantities. That idle curiosity with which most Englishmen are afflicted led me this evening to go and witness the execution of a poor devil, shot for having cut down a doobie (washerman) of the 16th. He had been given up by his countrymen villagers, who said that they had no idea of our people being bullied while we behaved so kindly to them. He was shot by a firing party of the 16th with carbines, and took it as if he was going to dinner, save an occasional "Allah il Allah!"

July 17th and 18th.—Moved on by short and very pleasant marches, and today, the 18th, encamped in a very fine valley, rich in every way, called Karabaugh, along the whole line of which a chain of good, small, square mud forts ran, each inhabited by separate families, who take this method of preserving themselves from the hill robbers and the exactions of their own rulers. As has been usual of late, the people of the country have brought every

Digitized by Google

thing in for sale; and we never, since leaving the provinces, and scarcely even in them, have had grain so cheap. In fact, any quantity may be collected in these rich valleys at this time of the year. Barley sells now in camp at 24 seers per rupee; flour at 15; and even grain, which they have of late brought much of into camp, as high as 20.

News arrived of the Dost's son having come down to Ghuznee to support his younger brother, with 2000 horse. I only trust he will be kind enough to await our arrival there, and we will pay him out for all the scores that have been run up between this and Dadur.

July 19*th*.—The march between Mustee and Nanee has been divided, in order to give the Shah time to join us, either in our attack upon or entry into Ghuznee; and the first eight miles were accomplished this morning. Every thing at present looks warlike. Both the young Dosts remain still at Ghuznee, and we hear great accounts

Digitized by Google

of the numbers who daily join them; but the lies told on all sides prevent one's placing the smallest dependence, even on reports from apparently the very best sources.

A troop of the 1st Bombay cavalry drove back this morning a party of the enemy who had, seemingly, been sent to observe our motions, and had succeeded in turning the course of the stream which watered our encampment, but the dam across which the Sepoys again cut. They retired beautifully, with flanking parties, rear-guards, and videttes in the most approved manner. The Shah joined us this morning about twelve, with all his people and our 4th brigade of infantry.

July 20th.—Moved to Nanee, another seven-mile march, and within twelve of Ghuznee. I saw an Affghan, this morning, who reported that the sons of the Dost were still there,—that they had been all yesterday employed in mounting the fort guns, and declared their intention of fighting it

Digitized by Google

out. Whatever may be their hostile feelings towards us, they are certainly not shared by the people about here, who have, as usual, brought more than ever into camp.

July 21*st*.—Moved, as usual, at half-past four, in heavy parallel columns of infantry and cavalry, stretching across the greater part of the valley. The whole army had laid on their arms all night, and we expected that all these morning preparations would, as usual, prove a failure, as all our attempts to come up with the enemy have hitherto done: but we found, on getting near the town, that not only had they remained in it, but, as their shot soon convinced us, they intended giving us a warm reception. General Thackwell having come a little too near with the cavalry, we received a gentle hint to keep of, in the shape of a ball from what we have since discovered to be an enormous 64-pounder, carrying a ball about as big as a man's head; which, in this instance, killed a horse of the 2d Cavalry, knocked over a little tent in which three

Digitized by Google

officers had sat down to breakfast, broke a camel's leg, and killed two native followers among the baggage to the rear.

The column of cavalry was then moved a short distance to the rear, and I galloped off to the 35th N. I., on whom the favours of the garrison were now being bestowed, the cavalry being out of shot. The rascals fired particularly well, the balls coming, often four and five times running, within three yards of the place I was standing, and once desperately wounding an officer near me.

After staying talking with a brother officer (Capt. H.) for some little time, I rode on nearer the fort, and joined Sir J. Keane's staff, who were going round reconnoitring; he was just giving orders for driving in the enemy's outposts, stationed in some fruit-gardens, and under walls outside the town. This was soon done by the Queen's 13th and the 48th N. I., with but trifling loss; the principal being two officers badly wounded by musket-balls. Two troops of

Digitized by Google

horse-artillery and a battery of foot, making in all eighteen guns, were now ordered into battery; but, after firing a few rounds, and pitching a shell or two, the Commander-in-chief found that, with their small calibre, they had so little effect upon these mud walls, that he ordered them to cease firing, and recalled both them and all the remainder of the troops without the reach of shot from the fortress.

The want of good information has now proved how serious a matter it is taking it, in military points, from a civilian. All who have passed this road have passed lightly over this place, and occasioned the leaving behind our battering-train at Candahar. By this the Commander-in-chief and his army are placed in a most perilous situation; for we have this morning proved how utterly useless the small cannon we have with us are against soft, mud walls, like these; and our scaling ladders having been cut up to form a bridge across the Helmund, nothing now remains but to at-

Digitized by Google

tempt the somewhat perilous attack of a *coup de main* by a very strong party.

'The Engineers and Major Garden, the Quarter-master-general, having decided that the storming shall take place on the Cabul gate, on the N.E. side of the city, we moved round this evening and took up our position, with our right resting on the low hills (the extreme point of which the citadel is built upon), but well out of fire from the fort. Some confusion, of course, took place while this movement was going on; which, indeed, was to be expected, the camp having been once formed, and having to be again changed in face of the fortress, which occasionally saluted us with a shot by way of making it greater; and as the darkness had come on before the movement had been entirely effected, some of the divisions lost their way in crossing the ridge of hills to the eastward of the town, and many of the men did not find their way to their quarters until daylight. As my regiment forms one of the storming

Digitized by Google

party, and as, from the extreme strength of the place and the very numerous garrison, the defence is likely to be desperate, we all look forward with much anxiety for the result of the conferences among the heads of the army.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER VIII.

Preparations for Attacking Ghuznee—A Skirmish—Order for the Attack of the Fortress—Admirable Arrangement for a *Coup de Main*—Description of the Attack—Awful Silence—Terrific Explosion—Desperate Resistance of the Garrison—Entry of the Outer Town—Surrender at Discretion—Plunder of the Town—Immense Importance of the Triumph—Loss on Both Sides—Repairing Damages—Tomb of the Sultan Mahmoud—Sale of the Plunder.

July 22*d.*—Nothing done this morning, except working parties, with the Engineers, forming batteries near the hill on the fort; intended from these to cover the storming party.

About twelve an alarm was given of the whole hills in rear of the camp being covered by large bodies of troops, who had already carried off many camels, and apparently meditated an attack of the camp.

Digitized by Google

The Shah had already sent out two regiments of his infantry and two guns against them: but as more seemed to be coming up, and already about 2000 men being visible, our brigade of cavalry was ordered out, and I accompanied it to the scene of action. We found the enemy very strongly posted on the mountain tops to the rear of our camp, where it was impossible for cavalry to get at them. All that we could do therefore was, as far as possible, to surround the mountain and prevent their escape; and squadrons were placed at intervals for a mile along their base. The Shah's infantry then attacked them, driving them from ridge to ridge; but we found that the mountains continued too far to enable the cavalry to cut them off, so that we were obliged to content ourselves with fifty or sixty killed, and as many taken prisoners, with the loss of some twenty on the Shah's side. We got again into camp about two in the afternoon, and waited anxiously for the orders, it being whispered that the

Digitized by Google

storm of Ghuznee was to take place in the morning, though every thing was kept as much as possible secret, to prevent the fears of the garrison keeping them alive.

At six I went down to Colonel C. (the colonel of my regiment, the 17th) and asked to be allowed to join my company whenever the attack took place; and he then told me that he had just received his verbal orders, and that we did form a portion of the storming party on the morrow. As we moved from the camp at half-past twelve, he said I had better come to dinner at the mess; which I did, and slept in a brother-officer's tent, to be on the spot. The orders are these:—The whole of the artillery to move up at one, and take up their position on the rocky heights above the lower town, and to cover by their fire the advance of the storming party; the storming party to be formed of her Majesty's 2d, 13th, and 17th regiments, with the Company's Bengal European regiment; the forlorn hope to be composed of the light

Digitized by Google

companies of all the four, led on by Colonel Dennie of the 13th; the whole to be under the command of Brigadier-general Sale. The reserve, under the command of Sir W. Cotton, to be composed of five regiments of native infantry; and the cavalry, under General Thackwell, to surround the citadel on all sides, and cut off such stragglers as may escape from the fort.

Nothing could be more admirable than this entire arrangement, and the event proved how well every thing was calculated. The whole was done quietly, and without any unnecessary work to any one, and I only trust that Sir John will get both the honour and profit which he so richly deserves.

At midnight we assembled without a word spoken, or bugle or trumpet sound, and though three large regiments of infantry were standing within twenty yards of us, yet so well was the order obeyed by every one, that a spectator would not have known a man was there. On parade Colonel C.

Digitized by Google

said a few words to us all, and at one the word was passed along the column to move forward. The morning was cold, dark, and windy,—exactly what we wanted; and we moved down the line of the camp, and up to the low range of heights near the fort, without being discovered by the enemy. We were now ordered to lie down until the time for the opening of the batteries, an hour before daylight. The plan of attack determined upon by the Engineers was to carry mussucs (leather bags) of powder up to the gateway, blow it open with them, and that the storming party should then make a rush under cover of the smoke and confusion.

At three the batteries opened, and Captain Hay, of the 35th N. I., made a false attack on the northern side with his regiment; while the 13th, the second regiment of the storming party, opened out right and left, and kept up the attention of the enemy's matchlock men in that quarter. The excitement was now what I never before felt

Digitized by Google

in my life. Shot and shells were thrown in hundreds from our guns, while the fort attempted to return it effectually; but their guns, from want of practice, could not be fired above once in every three minutes; and before they had given more than a dozen rounds each, the gate was blown open and our leading company inside. Nothing could be more grand than the scene: the enemy hung blue lights from every part of the gateway, cheered, and sent showers of shot and arrows amongst us; and it was only by a suppressed groan or a question of "Well, where are *you* hit?" that you found how well they were aimed. Three hundred pounds of powder had been placed in the gateway, and at a quarter-past three one great blaze of light was seen, and then an awful explosion; and with a cheer the column charged, the four light companies commanded by Dennie leading, but the whole under Sale's direction, who also placed himself at the head.

By some mistake, the train had been

Digitized by Google

fired a little too soon, when the head of the column was nearly five minutes run off; the consequence of which was, that the enemy had time to recover their first surprise, and to be prepared to throw those immense masses of men upon us which occasioned the loss in the Queen's and European regiments. Nothing could exceed the gallantry of the garrison; they came on sword in hand, struck up the bayonets, and charged our men most desperately while in confusion, from the gate itself not only having fallen in, but part of the roof of the archway in which it stood; and huge stones, beams of wood, dead bodies, and every thing that could render the passage difficult, had found their way across the gateway. While the leading companies were picking their way through this, on came the garrison, killing and wounding two officers and fourteen men of the Queen's, and four ditto and twenty-seven of the Europeans,—a tolerable butcher's bill out of two companies. This one stand was, however, all that they made;

Digitized by Google

which, in fact, accounts for the loss being almost entirely confined to these two companies, the panic seizing them the moment the scarlet coats were seen within the town, and they never afterwards made an effectual one. Nothing, however, can stand the bayonet; and though more than once nearly driven back by the fury of the Affghans, still the officers gallantly again led on their men to the charge, and in a quarter of an hour the outer town was ours.

When we passed through the gate (the fourth regiment of the storming party) the scene was horrible in the extreme, dead and dying lying thick in all directions; some, happily for them, quite dead; some only dying; and others that were just able to mutter a curse upon us as we trampled them under foot and moved forward into the open parade in front of the gateway. The two front regiments had been sent round to the other side of the citadel to attempt an entrance on that side, while we were divided into three parts: the first, under

Digitized by Google

Major Denham, to clear the walls of the town of hundreds of fellows who still lingered there, and every now and then sallied out to attack our people; the second, under Major Pennequick, to clear a part of the ramparts to the right of the gateway, in a house upon which a number of fellows had collected, refusing all quarter, and in the course of ten minutes fifty-nine of them had bit the dust.

Our main body (with which my company was) remained with the Colonel, and had orders to attack the postern gate of the citadel and blow it open, if not instantly delivered up. The Colonel accordingly moved up the hill on which it was situated and on arriving at the gate, which was of iron curiously carved, we had a slight difference of opinion touching the surrender; but on our threatening to blow it open if not given up directly, they thought better of the matter, and we entered the outer walls of the (according to the natives) impregnable fortress of Ghuznee.

Digitized by Google

About 300 of the principal men in the place surrendered to Colonel Croker at the doorway; but, without stopping for this, we again ascended to the keep, or governor's house, and soon stood on an open esplanade in front of it. Again this gate was not to be opened; and, seeing that we were only losing time in talking, we knocked out the wood-work from a large port-hole by its side and jumped in, with five or six men, and opened this inner gate to the rest of the regiment.

The men inside, who were but few, dropped like a shot upon their knees, their hands went up in the attitude of prayer, and their heads touched the ground. We gave them quarter and made them open the gate, and the last spot that owned the Dost's allegiance in Ghuznee was ours.

Then began the plunder, the whole of the chiefs' women, children, and property of every kind was in this inner court; and you soon saw Cashmere shawls, ermine dresses, and ladies' inexpressibles over the

Digitized by Google

blood-stained uniforms of our men. The carved wood-work in the windows and doors was knocked in, and the poor women themselves, in some instances, dragged out, before the guard, which General Sale immediately ordered over them, arrived. The poor creatures cried and sobbed and clung to our arms; none, however, were either pretty or interesting. Such a scene of plunder and confusion I never saw: one blackguard of ours had a cooking-pot wrapped up in a Cashmere shawl; a second was busily employed in ripping up a woman's quilt, and sticking the silk into his pocket or inexpressibles; while three or four others had seated themselves on the steps with a huge pot of tamarind paste, of which I took my share. But, amidst all this, our company advanced again up some spiral staircases to the top of the house, and planted on the highest point the Queen's colours of our regiment, while the 13th clapped theirs on the opposite bastion.

The more one looks at the height of the

Digitized by Google

walls, the depth of the ditch, and the numerous and determined garrison within (5000 men, according to the young Dost's account), the more reason we have to congratulate ourselves upon our conquest. We must consider that we had Dost Mahommed himself to the north, with a considerable force; the men who attacked us the day before yesterday on one side, another son of Dost Mahommed on the other; and that villanous Hajee Khan Kaker and many other chiefs ready to turn upon us, if unsuccessful, in our rear. The fate of our possessions in the East, in fact, almost depended upon it; for had this army been annihilated, which it must have been had we been obliged to retreat, we should have had every native power in India upon us.

The fruits of our enterprise have been 500 killed, 3500 prisoners, eight guns, immense stores of shot, shells, grape shot, grain, and supplies of every kind, in any quantity, and 1800 horses: not a bad morning's work! Our own loss has been, in

Digitized by Google

comparison, trifling; only 180 killed and wounded. a mere nothing, considering the strength of the place and the resistance we at first met with from the garrison.

As soon as the work was over and the reserve placed in possession of the fortress we marched out, and got comfortably home to a good breakfast and hearty shakes of the hand from many a friend, glad to see one return alive and unwounded from so ticklish a business as storming a fort. The Shah, who is by it made the happiest man in the world, declares that we cannot be mere men—we must be devils, and have used magic to have got into so strong a place in so short a time. He came in immediately after the storm and examined the place, among his dying and dead countrymen.

It was not for a day or two that all the bodies could be discovered, many of the poor wretches having dragged themselves into the houses and hiding-places around the fort, and there died of their wounds.

Digitized by Google

We buried, however, about 700 of the garrison, and many were taken away by their friends besides.

The horses, of which, as I said before, there were some 1800 in the fort, had when we entered, been piqueted in long rows, and as soon as the plunder began, each man thought a good horse would be an excellent addition to his marching equipment. Accordingly a nag was detached and mounted by as many as could ride; but alas! when we came to the gate of the fort, a guard had been placed upon it, to whom each and all were obliged to give up their plunder, to be afterwards sold for the general benefit. No one, therefore, cared what became of his horse; and therefore, with a kick behind, he was sent back into the fort: and many others being done the same to, a very dangerous squadron of cavalry, all stallions, were very soon more to be avoided than the enemy, and many were killed before secured.

July 24th, 25th, and 26th.—Working

Digitized by Google

parties of prisoners and pioneers employed all day in bringing in the dead, while the artillery and engineers are replacing the guns more scientifically, stopping up some gates and repairing others; and, in short, again placing the fort in a perfect order for defence.

July 27th.—Dost Mahommed sent his brother, Jubber Khan, to propose terms for bringing about an accommodation; but, as he positively refused in the first instance to go to Hindoostan, which is with us a *sine quâ non*, the negotiation soon broke off, and the Jubber returned in great wrath, and war or flight must now be his poor brother's only resource. Among other propositions he made to Sir John was to send any two others of his sons, to be prisoners in place of the one we have taken in Ghuznee; which, of course, could not be.

In the evening I rode with Sir John in the tail of the Shah to the tomb of the great Affghan hero, Sultan Mahmood, where his majesty went to say his prayers. We were

Digitized by Google

received by great crowds of people, and entered the tomb by many a winding passage, which at length brought us to a small paved court, with large trees in the centre, on one side of which his defunct majesty was entombed. The only thing remarkable about the place was a pair of large sandal-wood doors, said to have been brought from Guzerat, beautifully carved and set in brass. The tomb itself was of handsomely carved white marble, covered with sentences of the Koran.

July 28th.—The engineers having reported that the repairs of the fort would be done by the day after to-morrow, we are to move on that day; or rather the head-quarters and cavalry, poor Colonel Arnold's state of health being too bad to allow a hope of his seeing service; and he therefore recommended me to join my regiment, where some service is likely to be going on: which I shall do.

July 29th.—A grand sale of arms and plunder taken in the fort, most of which fetched

Digitized by Google

enormous prices, every one being anxious to get something as a remembrance of Ghuznee. 270 and 280 rupees (27*l.* or 28*l.*) was no uncommon price for a common dirty sword or matchlock; and for a tolerably handsome rezai (quilt) I had to give 100 rupees: but being that of the favourite wife of the Dost's son, it was of course worth any money to me.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER IX.

Departure from Ghuznee—Death of a Favourite—March for Cabul—Beautiful Valley—Artillery of Dost Mahommed—Profusion of Fruit—Encamped near Cabul—Triumphal Entry into Cabul—Reception of the Shah—Description of the City and Palace—The Zenana—The Shawls and Furs of Cabul—Death of Colonel Arnold—His Funeral—Departure of the Bombay Army—Fox-hunting in Affghanistan—Dost Mohammed again—Leave-taking—Deposition of Kurruck Sing.

July 30*th.*—The head-quarters and Bengal army moved this morning *en route* to Cabul; and I, for the first time, joined my corps. My poor dog Spot died to-day, after having followed me and my horse for three years.

July 31*st.*—Left Ghuznee this morning and made a longish march of fourteen miles,

Digitized by Google

passing through a small mountain-pass of about three miles long, in which the Dost, had he not been paralysed by the fall of Ghuznee, might have given us much trouble. We found our new camp laid out in the valley of the small stream running from Cabul to Ghuznee, and the following day we moved as usual at two o'clock for an eight-mile march, over which we got so early as to come upon the rear-guard and baggage of the advanced column.

August 2d.—A ten-mile march along the valley of this river, one of the principal feeders of the Cabul one, ending in some rich cultivation, and many villages surrounded with fruit-trees loaded with apples, plums, and apricots, all most excellent; and if we had but wine to keep our insides in order, great is the havoc we should make among them.

August 3d.—A march of ten miles through a country, I should say, totally impracticable for an army, if properly defended by an enemy. The hills here close upon one

Digitized by Google

another, making the valley little more than a mile wide in many places, through which run innumerable watercourses and drains, often laying the road under water, and every where cutting up the ground into ravines deep enough to stop all the cavalry of England. The advanced column had halted on the ground we now came to for the purpose of collecting the whole army, previous to the grand battle expected with Dost Mahommed, who was reported to have collected his forces at this place. But on arriving on the new ground we found all our labours had been vain, for two of the lancers whom I met on the road brought the news that the Dost had decamped from his army the night before, leaving twenty-three guns on the road-side, and that his cavalry were dispersing in all directions.

August 4th.—Moved with the whole army towards Cabul, a detachment under Major Cureton having been sent on last night to clear the roads and take possession

Digitized by Google

of the ordnance left by the ex-chief. We marched eighteen miles to a beautiful and extremely rich valley, filled with fruit-trees and cultivation, out of which the road to Bokhara turns in the northern side; the place being named Killa Kazee, from a small fort above the road we travelled this morning.

August 5th.—A march of fourteen miles to within five of Cabul. About half-way we came upon the Dost's artillery, drawn out in three sides of a square, evidently with the polite intention of giving us a salute from them as we came up the road, had not his heart and those of his army failed him. They consisted of twenty-three excellent guns and mortars, chiefly brass, many of them beautifully carved and embossed. One enormous fellow, a 32-pounder at least, was pointed directly down the road up which we must have advanced; but his services were not this time required, and when we passed both he and his companions were under a strong guard of our troops.

Digitized by Google

We passed through an exceedingly strong country, which might have been easily defended against almost any number of troops; and in arriving here without loss we have much reason to thank the Dost. Nothing can exceed the fertility and beauty of the valley in which we are encamped, which is in parts separated from that in which Cabul stands by a lofty range of mountains. Streams of beautiful water run through it in every direction, edged with weeping willows, poplars, and fruit-trees, and surrounded by gardens on all sides. Anything like the quantity, excellence, and cheapness of the fruit I never before saw. I heard one of our men grumbling at only getting his shako crammed with cherries for a pucka pice—about a penny; and a man may get enough peaches, apples, plums, pears, and grapes, to kill himself for sixpence, and all equal to any hot-house fruit in England.

Captain Outram and 3000 Affghans, with some volunteers of our own, have been sent to try and intercept the Dost's

Digitized by Google

retreat on Bokhara; in which they are very likely to succeed, he having only one day's start.

August 6th.—Halted at this place, Major G. (the major-general) not being able to find ground nearer Cabul, which is not to be seen from our present ground,—a great nuisance when one wants so many little things from the city.

August 7th.—It had been intended that the Shah should make his triumphal entry into Cabul this morning, but some mistake relative to the number of troops to attend him made his majesty sulky, and he would not stir. However, at three in the afternoon he did at last make a start, and I for one went to see the fun. Mr. Macnaghten, Sir John, and all his staff attended, and we surrounded the king on all sides, while hundreds of Affghans galloped on the flanks.

The city is situated under the lee of the hill, on the opposite side of which we are now encamped. It is an open town, with the citadel on the northern side. The

Digitized by Google

streets are like those of almost every native town—beastly, dirty, and built of mud. The great bazars run through the place at right angles, meeting in a very handsome line of covered brick archways, which, if in repair, would be a really fine thing; but they, like every thing else about the place, have got into bad repair in the civil wars of Affghanistan.

To return to the Shah. He was very superbly dressed in a long coat of dark cloth covered with jewels, his waist surrounded with embroidered bullet-cases and powder-horns, and his head covered with a kind of three-cornered cap, from each corner of which hung a large emerald. His steed also was very handsomely caparisoned; and as he always looks like a gentleman, and is a very fine specimen of a native at all times, he really looked "the King." The population of Cabul must be immense; the streets, the tops of the houses, and even the hills which at all approached the scene of action, were literally *one mass* of people;

Digitized by Google

even the women were coming forth; and, though carefully veiled, yet some few good-looking ones shewed their faces as we passed through.

The Shah paced slowly and with proper dignity through the streets of the city, in which he had not been for thirty years; but I neither heard nor saw any enthusiasm, and, in the old English words, heard no soul cry "God bless him."

After moving through the bazars and streets for some time, we came upon the Balla Hissar, or citadel of Cabul, in which stands the palace. We passed through a gateway and wall which seemed to have been newly repaired, and entered a kind of street of shops with trees in the centre, which at length brought us to a paved court, on one side of which stands the garden-house, and on the other the palace of Dost Mahommed, or of the Shah, whose property it has now become. We all dismounted here, and first entered the garden-house, which is very extensive, with hand-

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

[illegible] women were coming forth; and [illegible] carefully veiled, yet some few good-[illegible] [illegible] showed their faces as we [illegible].

[illegible] paced slowly and with proper [illegible] through the streets of the city, in w[illegible] had not been for thirty years; h[illegible] either heard nor saw any enthusiasm, an[illegible] in the old English words, heard no s[illegible] cry "God bless him."

After moving through the bazars and streets for some time, we came upon the [illegible] or citadel of Cabul, in which [illegible] place. We passed through a [illegible] wall which seemed to have [illegible] ived, and entered a kind of [illegible] with trees in the centre, [illegible] h brought us to a paved [illegible] side of which stands the [illegible] on the other the palace of [illegible] ned, or of the Shah, whose p[illegible] s now become. We all dis-[illegible] and first entered the garden-house, which is very extensive, with hand-

Digitized by Google

BALA HISSAR, OR SHAH'S PALACE, AT CABUL.

Published by Henry Colburn, Great Marlborough Street, 1841.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

some buildings at each end and a large garden in the centre. From this we went to the Dost's palace, a large but somewhat ruinous building, and ascended to the top of it, which commands a superb view of all the country round. We had now seen quite enough, and gladly took leave of his majesty once more in his own palace. We lost our way going back again, and made a long circuit of some seven or eight miles before getting to camp; but which I for one did not regret, as we saw so much of this rich, beautiful country.

August 8th.—Remained on our present ground, right glad of a quiet day after all our labours; and three days afterwards, on the 10th, we left this present ground for some about two miles further from the town, on the high road between Candahar and Cabul. Brigadier Arnold has an excellent house half a mile in front of the lines, formerly the country-house of Dost Mahommed's sister, in whose zenana he has taken up his residence. The court-yard is the

Digitized by Google

neatest native residence I ever saw, fitted up inside with beautifully carved doors and windows. The house is formed like, I fancy, almost every one of any size in the country—in an enclosure of four walls built square, with towers at the corners, of sufficient height to prevent any danger from sudden attack, or from the eye of curiosity. One-fourth is taken up by the zenana, and the remainder distributed out to the followers, stables, and dependents of the family. The zenana has four principal sets of apartments in it, consisting each of one principal room, a back one behind it for a sleeping apartment, two smaller ones on each side, and a staircase leading up to an upper set of rooms exactly on a similar plan. I conclude that of the four wives, which is the orthodox allowance for a good Mussulman, each occupies one of these sets of apartments with her attendants.

It was most gratifying to my poor friend Col. Arnold, who had been daily getting worse, to see how much every one felt for

Digitized by Google

him, the number of daily inquiries after him, and of people to volunteer to attend him night and day. But I now begin to fear all our trouble will avail us little, for his case begins to be almost hopeless.

August 14*th.*—Cantered into the city to breakfast with Sir A. Burnes, and afterwards to go to some of the best shops. Sir A. gave us an excellent breakfast and the company of a Mr. Harland, who, till we arrived here, had been in the service of Dost Mahommed. We went afterwards to the shawl-merchants' houses, and saw some very tolerable furs and shawls; but altogether dearer, and, as far as I could judge, very inferior to those I have seen at Delhi.

Poor Arnold gets daily worse and worse, and Dr. R. who is attending on him thinks the case a confirmed abscess on the liver, and quite a hopeless one.

August 19*th.*—Arnold will not, I fear, outlive the day; his extremities are cold, and he is already half dead, though he still struggles fiercely against death, and every

Digitized by Google

now and then rallies in the most wonderful manner for a few minutes. But he is so dreadfully reduced, and his weakness is such, that he cannot outlive to-day or to-morrow at furthest.

August 20th.—At last all is over with my poor chief, Col. Arnold, whose sufferings terminated at one o'clock to-day. In him the 16th have had the greatest loss that they could sustain, and I have lost one who has been almost a father to me for now nearly twelve months. I have not spirits or time to write more. His body will be opened in the course of this evening. I remained the greater part of the day in his house, assisting in getting every thing in order for his funeral.

August 21st.—On the body being opened yesterday, it was found poor Arnold had five large abscesses on his liver, and the only matter of wonder was his having lived so long. We moved his body down to the Armenian burying-ground at one to-day, and I started with the whole of his regi-

Digitized by Google

ment to join the funeral procession at three. We had to march nearly twelve miles before arriving at the ground, where the body was waiting under an escort to receive us, when the funeral procession was formed. The lancers formed a double line, through which the body passed with the band playing the dead march in "Saul" before it, the pall being supported by Sir W. Cotton, Sir J. Keane, Brigadiers Sale, Roberts, and all the general officers in the force, while almost every officer in the army followed the coffin. We laid him under a small tree in the Armenian burying-ground, the whole of the priests belonging to that religion here being in attendance; while the artillery fired nine guns over my poor friend—the number his rank as a brigadier-general entitled him to. After seeing the grave closed and every thing made as neat as circumstances would permit, until we can have a proper tomb erected over him, we returned home.

September 16*th.*—Since the above-named

Digitized by Google

sad event we have remained quietly at Çabul, the routine of our lives but little varied, and I have therefore dropped this journal till to-day, when I again lost sight of my regiment, they starting this morning on their route towards Bombay, and I staying at Cabul to move back with the Bengal army as far as Feeroozpoor, and from thence, I trust, to Bombay.*

The Bombay army left Cabul to-day under General Wiltshire, to march *viâ*

* The two armies, or rather those small portions of each which were to return to our provinces, separated at Cabul; the one, the Bombay, returning to India *viâ* the western provinces of Affghanistan and the Bolan pass, while that of Bengal remained at Cabul until the extremely hot season had passed in the plains, and then returned *viâ* Jellahabad, the Kyber pass (the other gate of India on that side), and the Punjab.

The Bombay army on its march back was ordered to displace the cruel and treacherous chieftain of Kelât, to subdue some minor insurrections among the Ghilghie tribes, and finally to leave detachments in several places on their route; all of which they afterwards accomplished with that ease which the high

Digitized by Google

Ghuznee to Kelât to upset the chief of that place, and from thence to move as quickly as possible home. I have, therefore, to-day joined by invitation the staff mess; which is very agreeable, being all old friends. Among the few amusements at Cabul was an occasional day's sport with a small pack of fox-hounds, which the officers of the 16th Lancers had brought with them, and, in spite of many difficulties, had managed to keep alive by excellent management.

September 20th.—Had some very good fun with the Lancer fox-hounds, my little

order and excellent condition of the regiments composing the force, and the known gallantry and superiority as a soldier of their commander, General Wiltshire, gave every reason to expect.

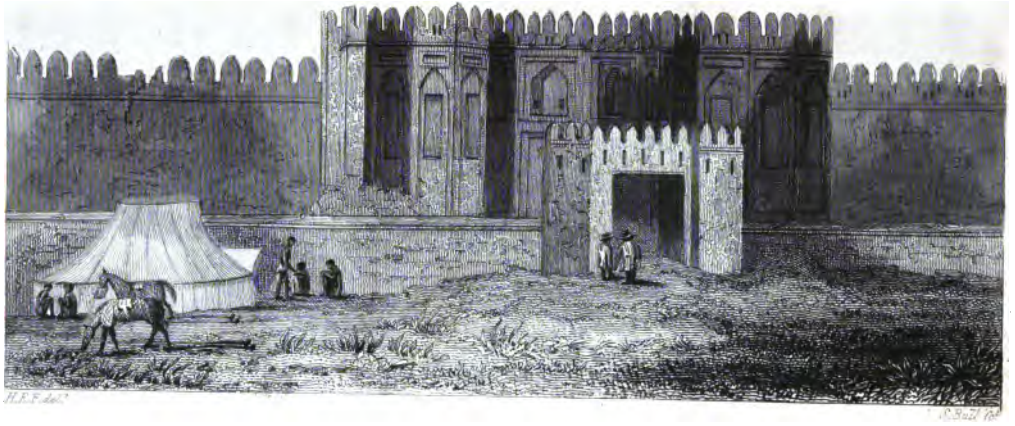
My orders being to rejoin the staff of Sir Henry Fane at Bombay as quickly as possible, and thinking the service for which I had quitted it nearly over, I determined to continue with the Bengal army, to which I had been all along attached, and take advantage of any opportunity of getting down the two great rivers, the Sutlej or Indus, as might prove most convenient and practicable.

Digitized by Google

Arab carrying me clear of every thing; though many gentlemen sportsmen came into the large drains by which the whole valley was intersected.

September 24th.—Dr. Lord, who had been sent on a friendly mission, has been obliged to return, in consequence of Dost Mohammed having again come down to his own frontier at Colum, on the north side of the Hindoo Coosh, in some force, and thus making the Bokhara road unsafe. This has so much alarmed the Politicals, that they applied to Sir John Keane to send a brigade across the mountains to dislodge him. This he very wisely declined doing, there being no certainty as to supplies, and a certainty that, should any thing unforeseen happen, no assistance could reach them; nor could they themselves return, till next year, on account of the snow expected in the course of another month. But, instead of sending them away, he has ordered another brigade of infantry to remain in Affghanistan; so that now the entire Bengal army

Digitized by Google



SHAH SHEAD DURWAZA.

Published by Henry Colburn, Great Marlborough Street, 1841.

Digitized by Google

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

Digitized by Google

that came through the Bolan pass, with the exception of two regiments (the 16th Lancers and 3d Cavalry), remain in this country.

October 3d.—Dined with Colonel Wade the political agent at Lahore, who came in with the Shah Suja to Cabul about a week ago; and during dinner, finding that I was most anxious to get away to be in time to see Sir Henry before he left Bombay, was kind enough to ask me to be of his party down to Hindoostan: but said, that as he must leave on the 5th, if I went I must lose no time in getting ready.

October 4th.—Spent the whole day in getting leave, taking leave of all my friends, selling a horse or two, paying my debts, and, in short, working like a dray-horse; and most thankful I was when it was all over: which was not, however, till late at night.

In taking leave, perhaps for the last time, of my friends and brother-officers of the staff of the army, I should be most ungrateful did I not say how much I ought to thank them for many kindnesses; and that through

Digitized by Google

them these last few months, though spent among difficulties and *désagrémens* rarely experienced, have passed over most pleasantly, and even in a way which I shall always look back to with pleasure. Colonel Wade was most anxious to get on quickly to Lahore, news having arrived at Cabul of the virtual dethronement of Kurruck Sing, the rajah of Lahore and son of Runjeet Sing, and of the government being seized by his (Kurruck's) son, with his prime minister Diahn Sing aiding and abetting.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER X.

Departure with Colonel Wade from Cabul—Arrival of Treasure—Mountain Pass—Giant's Tomb—Attack by Hill-Robbers—The Snowy Mountains of Sulimàn—Mountain Stream and Bridge—Twenty-three Camels lost—Magnificent Garden in the Desert—Mohammed Akbar Khan—A Day's Halt—Jellalabad—The Cabul River—The Three Passes—Dacca—The celebrated Kyber Pass—Impregnable as a Key to India—Change of Climate—Descent into the Plains—City of Peshawer—Visit to the European Governor—Splendid Palace and Entertainment.

October 5th.—Left Cabul to join Wade's camp at Boodkack, with an officer of the horse-artillery. The road lies along a causeway for the first six miles, and as it is in many places broken, a more miserable one could not well be. It is, however, necessary to have something raised, as the whole country on either side was partially under water. We found the camp at Boodkack nine

Digitized by Google

miles from Cabul. Our party consists of six including myself, with an escort of a regiment of Seikhs and some irregular horse; our host living in the best style, who was most hospitable and kind, and did every thing to make us comfortable.

October 6th.—Our road this morning lay through a mountain-pass formed by the bed of a river, which we crossed on the march no less than twenty-seven times. The whole distance was stony and bad in the extreme, and, like Job's comforters, our companions tell us this is nothing to what we may expect a-head. It will take at least a day's hard work for the pioneers to make this road passable for artillery. We encamped at a place called Rote Cabul, close to a mountain-pass, on the other side of which were the 3d Cavalry, who had just arrived, bringing up the treasure so long expected at Cabul. Wade having got a large quantity of supplies, he was kind enough to let me have some; a portion of which I sent back to some old friends in

Digitized by Google

the 16th, who had had nothing of the kind for some time.

October 7th.—We found this morning, to our cost, that we had encamped on the wrong side the gorge; for by five o'clock, the time we were to start, the 3d Cavalry, coming to Cabul, had placed a guard there to allow the passage of their regiment and the convoy under its charge: the consequence of which was, that ours did not get away till three hours after their time; after which the poor devils had to go a double march of nearly twenty miles to an old tomb of a giant. The road was one mass of the worst possible shingle, over high mountains and through strong water-courses; and, in short, one long Kojuk pass from beginning to end.

We got breakfast at four in the afternoon, and even then many of our tents were not up, and we passed the day under some half-dozen wretched trees that surrounded the tomb. Nothing can be more dreary than the whole country; quite as

Digitized by Google

bare, and far worse in its roads, than even that between Quetta and Candahar.

October 8th.—Left our friend the giant's tomb, and eleven miles of a yet more villanous road than that which we have hitherto had, to a beautiful grove of trees, a complete "diamond in the desert." The first part of the route was an ascent of shingle for some three miles, after which we had a very steep descent of about the same distance to a small stream, and what is called in this country an encamping-ground, at a place called Baunkaub. From this the road led across a shingle-desert, and over hill and desert of the same for some six miles further, when we came upon a ruined fort built by some of the Delhi conquerors, and from this descended to the before-mentioned trees; which are the last of a set planted at each stage by the same worthies, but which have, in most instances, been cut down by Dost Mahommed for his gun-carriages.

The hill-robbers, who abound in all these

Digitized by Google

passes, attacked a lady travelling with us, and on her making some resistance (not for the defence of her virtue, but that of her petticoat) they cut her over the neck, and badly wounded a Seikh sepoy who was with her. Our wretched camels again to-day did not get in till three o'clock, and we, of course, got no breakfast till two hours later.

October 9th.—Moved as usual at daylight, and marched the first part of the road up the dry bed of a mountain stream, which continued for some three miles; from the top of which we descended some 3000 feet, over, as usual, one mass of shingle, but still on the whole a better road than those of the three last days, though bad is the best. The march was very long, for though really but twelve miles, the vileness of the roads, and the hills and descents we had to cross, made it worse than twice the distance in the plains. The snowy mountains (a part of the Sulimàny chain) shewed splendidly at a distance of some twenty miles to the southward, and

Digitized by Google

the prospect altogether somewhat improved by (for the first time since we came into Affghanistan) some stunted bushes being on the nearer hills, and pines dimly visible on the distant mountains.

Our new camp was pitched at the bottom of the worst descent we have yet had, and one which it will take the Engineers two days at the least to make passable for the guns. We pitched on the banks of a fine mountain stream, with a very handsome bridge over it, now partly in ruin, built by the present blind Shah, Zemann, one of the brothers of Shah Sujah, who reigned for a short time in Cabul. The water rushes furiously over its rocky bed, and between two high masses of black rock, looking very picturesque in the background; but the picture is spoilt by the usual bareness of the mountains; and as a proof that the country was none of the best, we lost twenty-three camels to-day by hard work.

October 10*th.* — Another very severe march, nearly a double one, to Nimla, pass-

Digitized by Google

ing by the ordinary halting-place, Gundamuck, nearly half way. The first part of the route was tolerable, with the exception of some very bad ravines, and over the plain of Gundamuck *almost* pretty. This part was well cultivated, had some very agreeable spots and villages, and was altogether one of the few pleasant places I have seen in the country. Streams of water ran over it in all directions, and on the bank of one of them, near the royal garden, which Mohammed Akbar Khan has nearly destroyed, is buried under a beautiful clump of trees one of the Dost's brothers, who died here of the cholera.

From this we crossed a tolerably high mountain, and then down a villanous descent in the bed of a mountain-torrent, to this place, a royal demesne and garden planted by the Delhi Emperor, Shah Jehan, for his annual progresses towards Jellalabad and Hindoostan. We walked through the garden, and any thing more beautiful and refreshing after the bareness of this sterile

Digitized by Google

country cannot be conceived. It is very extensive, planted in avenues crossing each other at right angles, in alternate trees of cyprus and plane, both the largest of the kind I ever saw. Some of the former must have been eighty feet high, and thick in foliage in proportion; and the latter, of course, much higher. The interior is planted with pomegranates, jessamine, vines, and many English flowers; all now, unfortunately, allowed to run wild. Streams of water have been at one time carefully run through it in all directions, but have now many of them ran over and made a bog of the garden. In the centre of the principal avenue is the enclosed zenana for the women, and further down a raised throne for the emperor to hold his durbar. In former days every stage had one of these, but the barbarians have within this last thirty years cut them all down to make gun-carriages with this exception; which was only saved, it is said, by Dost Mahommed having had a dream, threatening him with Mahommed's anger

Digitized by Google

if it were touched. The consequence has been, that he has not only preserved it, but built a wall round; and it is now one of the wonders of the country, and is really, by many degrees, the finest thing of the kind I have beheld in my travels.

October 11*th.*—Left Nimla for Futtiabad, a large village surrounded by cultivated country of greater extent than any portion of land of a similar character we have seen since leaving Cabul.

October 12*th.*—As usual, moved off at daylight; but instead of keeping along the line of march and getting the benefit of all the dust on it, we turned off towards the river, and passed through some very fine country to the house and estate of Jubber Khan, an elder brother of Dost Mahommed, whom neglect has driven away from that part of India, although he has always been notoriously our best friend in it. He was much respected in the country, and never interfered in any way in its political squabbles. His house was a very extensive

Digitized by Google

one, situated in the midst of splendid cultivation, and his people had prepared a breakfast of a lamb stuffed with nuts for our benefit, but W. had not time to stop to eat it. His (Jubber Khan's) departure is universally regretted, both by Europeans and natives.

October 12*th*.—Halt to-day. Employed the evening in taking a sketch of Mohammed Akbar Khan's house, governor of the province for Dost Mahommed; which is the one in which he kept his zenana, and which he seems to have had in tolerable order.

Mohammed Akbar Khan's House.

Digitized by Google

Jellalabad is a small and filthily dirty place, situated in a very rich valley. Its chief consequence arises from its being the residence of Mohammed Akbar Khan, governor, and son of Dost Mahommed, who has so long defended the Kyber pass against all the force Runjeet can bring against it. From its being so much lower, and consequently warmer than Cabul, it is the favourite winter residence of many of the grandees and chiefs of Affghanistan, and is hereafter to be the winter station of a great portion of our troops. Several guns were found in the fort when it was taken possession of, without opposition, by Col. Wade, some two months ago.

Affghanistan generally presents more changes in scenery and climate than any country in the world, and a striking instance of both occurs at this place: in the first, in the immediate change from the barren and stony track we have so lately been travelling through, to the rich valley of Jellalabad; and again, from the extreme cold of

Digitized by Google

the mountain highland of Cabul, to the heat of the country around us. We remained these two days here, while my host received some of the neighbouring mountain chiefs, and made arrangements for supplies being collected when the harvest shall be ready.

October 13*th.*—Left Jellalabad, making a short march of seven miles along the rich valley bearing the same name, and the banks of the Cabul river. Encamped on the high bank of the Cabul river, under one of the falls which make the river unnavigable except for very small craft. A. and myself had a delightful bathe under the falls; at, however, great risk: for the water was running twenty knots an hour at the least, and keeping one's legs on the shingle was most difficult.

October 14*th.*—A thirteen-mile march to Chardeh, the first part being through a pass for some two miles, and the remainder across a shingly barren plain, ending on a richer one covered with cultivation and villages.

Digitized by Google

The three great passes into Affghanistan on this side unite at this place, which was the spot on which Mohammed Akbar Khan usually took up his position with his army to be near the Seikhs, and was the one from which he fled on the passes being forced after the news of the fall of Ghuznee.

October 15*th.*—Ten miles across a fine plain, exceedingly rich in the finest rice cultivation I ever saw, running up to the base of the mountains on one side; while on the other was a large dry plain with some extensive villages, at which it is proposed to canton the troops for the summer. This part of the country through which the Cabul river flows is celebrated for growing the finest rice in India, called the Peshawer rice. At our ground was a curious tank near the village, filled with marseer and other fish, and from which the young ladies of the village were frightened by our approach.

October 16*th.*—A short and pleasant march to Dacca, a considerable town on

Digitized by Google

the left bank of the river, at which the chief of all the neighbouring valleys, resides. The chief of the country has been displaced by Wade for opposition to our interests, and a new one placed in his room; for whose assistance a considerable body of newly-raised contingents and of Seikh auxiliaries have been kept here under two European officers, who have been employed in making the smaller Kyber pass passable for the descending army in overawing the plunderers of the great Kyber range, and in maintaining the Shah's authority around.

October 17th.—Halt at this place, to allow Colonel Wade to settle the accounts and matters of different chiefs around. In the morning we rode into the town, and to a small mud fort, which we have possession of in right of conquest. Barracks and all kinds of buildings within the fort were building for the troops to be stationed here, which appears to me to be a thorough waste of money; for the people for whom he is building the said barracks never had any

Digitized by Google

thing better than a pigsty to live in before in their lives, and of course do not appreciate such places as these.

The town is a wretched hole, and, were it not for its situation on the river bank, would be ten times worse. It is said to be most unhealthy, which, in fact, the state of sickness in these levies sufficiently proves; and if that were not sufficient, the kind of suffocating heat and smell of malaria there is in the valley, would convince the most sceptical; and we could not help pitying the European officers doomed to remain in such a fatal spot.

October 18*th.*—Our first march through the celebrated Kyber pass, which is in fact the northern gate of India. From our camp on the river bank we moved across a barren shingly plain for a couple of miles, when we entered the pass, two mountains rising on either side to a height of 2000 feet, leaving a space between their feet of about 100 yards in width. Beyond this the passage opens out to about a quarter of

Digitized by Google

a mile, which continues with slight variation for about eight miles over a tolerably good road, and then begins the work. At this spot, where a strong piquet of ours is posted, you begin to ascend up the very steep side of the mountain, on a road cut out of the solid rock. This continues about twelve feet wide for three quarters of a mile, during which you ascend nearly 2000 feet. It is very much the same as one of the hill roads of the Himalayah, only worse from being all loose, and till lately was almost impracticable; but we have had 200 men at work on it for some weeks, and it is now comparatively perfect.

After getting up this worst part, the road still continues much the same, though now not ascending for another three quarters of a mile, in which are two short but very steep ascents, which bring one to another stockade and strong party of our irregulars, posted so as to defend this end of the pass. Beyond this we had about another mile of indifferent road, and three more tolerably

Digitized by Google

good, which brought us to a small mountain valley and fort called Gurrhee Lala Beg, —distance in all about thirteen miles.

To say this pass is bad, is far too mild a word. I never contemplated any thing at all to be compared to its strength, and I can only say, that if a position is wanted to defend India on, this spot would be totally impregnable if properly defended by Europeans. We felt a very sensible difference in the climate on these hills from our low encampment of yesterday, and till ten or eleven o'clock it was so cold, that instead of the white jackets of yesterday we were too glad to take to our cloaks.

October 19*th.*—From this we travelled seven miles along the pass over a tolerable road, except one or two bad spots, to Allee Musjid. This place, which commands the whole Kyber, was the place at which the chiefs levied their passage-money on all travellers, for which its situation absolutely prevents their having a hope of escape. It is very strongly situated on the top of a soli-

Digitized by Google

tary mountain, rising direct from the mountain-stream below, which here runs through a passage of certainly not more than twelve feet wide. Though the place is in fact commanded by the heights around, so cragged and steep are they, that no hope of a gun being taken up them could be held out. Wade took the place partly by bribery and partly by force; but not till he had had 150 men killed and wounded. It is a dreadfully unhealthy place, and the troops now there are more than half on the sick list, and one of the newly-raised regiments lost fifteen men yesterday. Captain F. who commands, and has had with him a company of his own Sepoys, besides about 1000 newly-raised contingents, has himself been nearly dying, and has lost by death twenty-two men in the last few months.

October 20th.—Marched to Jumrood, celebrated as being the place in which the Seikhs were so severely thrashed three years ago by the Affghans, and the general, Hurry

Digitized by Google

FORT OF ALLEE MUSHEL, IN THE [illegible] PASS.

Digitized by Google

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

Digitized by Google

Sing, killed. Instead of keeping down the banks of the stream, as we ought to have done, we must needs go a short cut; and any thing like the road or mountain foot-path (for it was nothing else) I never saw. It was, for some three miles, at first up and down the rocky mountains, and then along a pathway on the side of one, about three feet wide, which at length led down to a dry nullah, leading out into the plain of Peshawer, near the new fort of Jumrood; so that we have at last got into the plains, and away from those cursed mountains. In the evening I took a sketch of the fort, which is, for a native one, in very tolerable order.

October 21*st.*—Made a long march of thirteen miles to Peshawer; the greater portion of it through a really noble valley, highly cultivated. Five miles from the town, General Avetabile, an Italian in Runjeet's service, the governor-general of Peshawer for the Seikhs, came out in his carriage to meet Colonel Wade; and, being

Digitized by Google

somewhat tired of marching, we were glad to take our seats in it; and, with the assistance of four of the finest mules in the world, soon found ourselves at his house in the town. The city is very large, containing upwards of 10,000 houses and 80,000 inhabitants. The main bazar, which has been much improved by the general, runs through the centre of the town, from the Cabul gateway to Avetabile House, that forms the end of it, looking down on all his subjects; which, in substance, they (the people of Peshawer) are. We drove through a handsome archway into an immense courtyard, surrounded by stables, magazines, and all the necessaries for the governor's palace. The house itself, which formed one side of the square, is an immense building, entirely in the native style, painted in hieroglyphics from top to bottom, and abounding in small rooms and open verandahs. The general gave us a most excellent breakfast, at which a French salad was not the worst part; and, excepting the bore of being obliged to rub

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

[illegible] of marching, we were [illegible] our seats in it; and, with the a[illegible] of [illegible] of the fastest mules in the world, [illegible] ourselves at his house in the [illegible] The city is very large, containing [illegible] of 10,000 houses and 80,000 [illegible] The main bazar, which has been [illegible] improved by the general, runs through the centre of the town, from the Cabul gateway to Avetabile House, that forms the end of it, looking down on all his subjects; which, in substance, they (the people [illegible] are. We drove through a [illegible] way into an immense court, [illegible] unded by stables, magazines, and [illegible] for the governor's palace. [illegible], which formed one side of [illegible] immense building, entirely [illegible] le, painted in hieroglyphics [illegible] room, and abounding in small [illegible] open verandahs. The general [illegible] most excellent breakfast, at which a French salad was not the worst part; and, excepting the bore of being obliged to rub

Digitized by Google

FORT OF TAMMOOD, IN THE VALLEY OF PESHAWUR.

Digitized by Google

NEW YORK
BLIC LIBRARY

Digitized by Google

up one's old French for the occasion, it passed most pleasantly. We returned in his carriage to camp, and at seven o'clock again put our feet under his most hospitable board. We had a capital dinner, and most excellent nautch and fireworks. His Nautch girls were a very good corps, and strongly recommended by him in every way.

October 22*d.*—Began the day with the inspection of the fort of Peshawer, built by the Italian general Avetabile, and of which he is justly proud. It is by far the strongest fort I have seen in the country, and quite impregnable, except to a very heavy battering train and regular approaches. It is built on a scarped artificial mound, with double wall, flanking town, and *faux bras.* The governor's own room was very curious and comfortable; the small rooms were painted from the cornice to the foot of the wall with the loves of different Hindoo worthies—some of them not the most decent. In the evening Wade returned

Digitized by Google

some of the general's civility by a dinner-party to Avetabile, after which we kept it up till late with fireworks and nautching. Peshawer, they say, is the hottest place in the world; and I can well fancy it being true, for even at the time we are here the thermometer has varied from 85° to 95°, this being its coldest season.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XI.

March continued on the River Cabul — Passage of the Rapids — Attock — The Throne of Nadir Shah — Beautiful Gates of the Town — Excellence of Indian Servants — Embarkation on the Indus — Extreme Danger of the Voyage — Rapids and Whirlpools — Dangerous Friends — Fort of Mukoor — Collecting Gold Dust — Town of Mookhud — Tricks upon Travellers — Halt at Karabaugh — Noble Bannian Tree — Great Salt and Alum Mines — Native Chiefs — Voyage continued — Confluence of the Sutlej with the Indus.

October 23*d.* — Left Peshawer, passing through more cultivation than can be found in all Affghanistan proper. We made an awful march of twenty long miles to Nowshera, half-way between Attock and Peshawer. It was a beautiful spot on the banks of the Cabul river, over which a ferry crossed. This made one of us think that it would be as well to go on the river through this long

Digitized by Google

march instead of riding at foot's pace another twenty miles, and in which the rest of the party seemed perfectly to agree. Accordingly, a boat has been engaged to take us to Attock to-morrow morning. I have also determined to try and arrange to go down with Colonel Sandwith, of the 1st Bombay Cavalry, from Attock, which will save me nearly a month in getting to Bombay. He has a boat ready for him there, and has kindly offered me a share in it; but as I think one will be scarcely sufficient, I shall try and get one of my own, if possible.

October 24th.—Our baggage we sent by land, a march again of some twenty miles, while we got into an Indus boat. The passage down was most agreeable. The river, though seldom more than a hundred and twenty or thirty yards across, was deep and rapid. The rapids are dangerous and numerous; but with a skilful crew, accustomed to them, no difficulty was experienced, except to the nerves, which required to be well strung, when one saw one's

Digitized by Google

boat apparently rushing on the rocks; and, though the back-eddy brought it well back again, it was sufficiently awful.

The scenery was at first through a rich arable country till we neared the Indus, when high and bold rocks were the features of the country, and we entered the great river, the Indus, between very high mountains, and at a place where it is divided into six branches near the town of Attock. We brought-to at a spot about half-a-mile above the bridge of boats, which the Seikhs have thrown across at this point. Our camp was pitched on the high rocky bank above the river, opposite to the town and ancient fort of Attock, near a small raised mound, on which the throne of Nadir Shah is said to have been placed before his invasion of India. Attock and its fort look from this very picturesque, with its tessellated walls and turrets.

In the afternoon we went over the bridge and through the fort. The former (the bridge) is a good, though somewhat fragile

Digitized by Google

one, and the fort is a mere assemblage of houses within the town walls. From the opposite side it may be tolerably strong; but it is completely commanded on this side by a hill, on part of which is the ruin of a fine old serai (resting-place for travellers) built by Nadir, and the first of that line of magnificent ones which are continued at every stage as far as Delhi. The town gates, built by Shah Jehan, are in very beautiful and pure architecture, and well worth seeing.

During the whole day I was busily employed in discharging my old servants, getting rid of my horses and camels, and arranging for my somewhat dangerous trip down the Indus; dangerous, both from the current and from the gentlemen savages who infest the banks. Parting with my servants, most of whom I had had ever since I have been in India, was a bitter pill; but it was necessary, and I have therefore discharged all but three. Colonel Sandwith has a very good boat, and, sooner than pay

Digitized by Google

500 rupees for a second, I have doubled up with him in his, taking a large raft, to bring down some of our servants.

It has often been laid to the charge of Indian servants that they are good for nothing, simply for the reason that they do not do *all* and every thing which our English ones do. Persons making such charges do not consider that in India we have a servant for every hand and leg of an English John, and that though there may be twenty of them, still that they are kept in order with far more ease, and are less heard, than the solitary English footman. If an Indian establishment is well treated by the master, I maintain that it is the best in the world, taking it altogether.

In the present instance, Colonel Sandwith and myself had thirty-three men and a horse on board one small boat; not to mention two sheep, three goats, and no end of fowls; and such are the means of stowage our people in India have, that with this large number on board we had no trouble

Digitized by Google

whatever, and rarely heard them, though close at hand. Out of these were four Arabs, who had travelled with Sir A. Burnes, well-known fighting characters, who were at all times armed to the teeth, and ready to take our parts on all occasions.

Colonel Sandwith, who, like myself, was on his way to Bombay, is an old and distinguished officer of their cavalry, and it is to his kindness that I am indebted for my present comfortable berth, as I have had no time to arrange matters for myself.

October 25th.—Embarked on board Colonel Sandwith's boat on the Indus; and, after taking leave of Wade and our old party, set to work to arrange our people and baggage in the boat and raft—a matter by no means easy. It was, however, at last accomplished, and at seven we got finally under way; doomed men as I am sure every one thought us, as, among the natives, this passage is proverbially dangerous, and, since the Seikhs have occupied Attock, has been little used: so that if we

Digitized by Google

accomplish the voyage to Bukkor, I believe we shall be the first Europeans who have done so. With our raft in company we moved merrily along, receiving an impetus every half mile from rapids; which, thanks to excellent pilotage, we managed to steer safely through, with one exception, when we touched on a reef of shingle, but passed over it with no other damage than slightly scraping the bottom. But a far more dangerous spot occurs in the whirlpool, which we came upon about the middle of the day. A narrow channel is divided by a high rock, on either side of which the stream runs like a mill-sluice, and, meeting with some obstruction under water, returns back with greater violence. Thus the boat's head is turned and swings round as if going direct on the rocks, when the back-eddy takes it and she again pays off in the opposite direction. This manœuvre is repeated three or four times, each time the boat gaining something, till at last it again rushes forward into the main stream. This part requires

Digitized by Google

most skilful pilotage, or the boat must be dashed into a thousand pieces; and the danger must totally prevent trading in this part of the river: for although boats can get down, I should imagine their getting up to Attock is totally impossible.

In spite, however, of some twenty rapids and two or three whirlpools, we got on very well till about four o'clock, when we came upon a large body of armed men, who seized hold of our attendant raft and insisted upon our bringing-to; and, on our not complying immediately with their somewhat unceremonious order, fired upon the former; and being under the rocks, from which they could fire with effect without our being able to return it, we at last were obliged to comply. The rascals then called themselves choukedars (custom-house officers) for Runjeet Sing, and pretended to be most careful of the Rajah's Ferringee friends; in proof of which, they agreed to let us go upon our bribing them with a goat. This we complied with, and, finding that we submitted to

Digitized by Google

this imposition like true Englishmen, they insisted upon sending some of their party with us to guard us at the place we should stop for the night. Accordingly, we took about a dozen of them on board the two boats, our Arabs quietly stationing themselves at our door, with their matches ready burning, and we with pistols loaded in our belts, and drawn swords at hand, to guard against their surprising us.

In this somewhat unpleasant trim we again moved off, and continued on to the choukee of Maree, where our friends insisted upon our stopping for the night. As might is right in this country we were obliged to comply, and they then required some more money to buy their dinners with. This, also, we were obliged to fork out, and they then marched away to the top of the bank, where they lighted their fires for the night. We kept our people under arms the whole night, and I slept little, and then with my sword and pistols ready for any attempt they might make. However, either our

Digitized by Google

preparations frightened them, or the fear of their master's displeasure; for they made no attempt to plunder or molest us, and we passed the night in peace.

October 26th.—Our rascally friends, the Seikh choukedars, again insisted on accompanying us this morning, and began by very coolly asking for a tax of 100 rupees for our raft; but as they found we were not only determined not to be more bullied, but that we would fight them sooner than comply, they knocked under, and, after detaining us till seven o'clock, the greater part again got on board, and we found ourselves once more *en route*, and all went on smoothly enough, except the bore of being kept in such a state of constant watchfulness. About nine they desired to be put on shore, and we were only too glad to get rid of them. Before going, however, they insisted on having a bacshish (present); and, sooner than have them any longer with us, I complied, and they got half-a-dozen more rupees, with which they took their de-

Digitized by Google

parture, greatly to our relief, at a small fort called Mukoor.

The banks have been all the way mountainous, and in some places very pretty. We passed several inconsiderable villages to-day, seemingly with large herds of cattle attached to them, and some small groves of a kind of dwarf sissoo-tree. The rapids, too, have diminished, both in strength and number; and the stream has widened considerably, averaging, I should say, 150 yards across, and being exceedingly deep.

The territories on the right bank seem to belong to a native chief, to whom all these people give the name of Hussian Khan, while those on the left belong to the Seikh dominions.

In getting rid of our former enemies, the choukedars, we thought we should now be at rest; but about twelve o'clock we came upon another of these choukees, called Bala, where the rascals fired upon us, the shots striking very near the boats, and made us bring-to and remain until they sent two

Digitized by Google

miles into the interior for the chief of the place. This was most provoking; but we had nothing for it but to submit. After detaining us nearly an hour, he came surrounded by thirty or forty followers; and, even with this small number, would not approach near our boats till we came out to meet him. We then had a long conference, and it was determined that we should give him ten rupees *as a present;* which we were too glad to do, and we, therefore, again moved on after an hour and a half's detention.

From this we met with no interruption whatever; and we passed smoothly along, making a good run of some five-and-thirty miles in the day. Numerous parties of people, collecting gold-dust, we saw in all directions; and when we halted for the night, which we did at one of these little stations, some of them brought me a small lump of the gold, and I bought a little of the sand. Their method is very simple. They have a small board with sides to it, in

Digitized by Google

which the sand is placed, and several times washed over, thus extracting the little particles of gold. The little lump I had obtained, they said, was the work of seven men for one day, and might, perhaps, be worth two rupees.

October 27th.—After passing for once a quiet night, we got off in good time this morning, and arrived about eight at Mookhud, a considerable town, and jageer of Kooshal Sing's, from which the Indus is navigable to the sea, where the people were assembled on the house-tops every where around to see us pass. At this place the character of the river begins to change, becomes less rapid, and there is some sand on the banks, up which many boats were being tracked to the town.

From here we continued on prosperously till, coming within sight of the town of Karabaugh, our boat began turning round in a most extraordinary way, and for some time I did not observe that our rascals were doing it on purpose.

Digitized by Google

As soon as we found out that this was the case, and began to blow up, we were answered by the steersman that the boat had a trick of doing this, and the only way we could persuade it to move on straight was the giving of a sheep for the benefit of the crew. This, as they had behaved very well, and piloted us through some very dangerous navigation without damage, we readily promised; and we accordingly soon found ourselves alongside the town of Karabaugh, under a noble bannian-tree, the first we have seen since leaving the plains of India.

Before arriving at the town, we passed between two high mountains, part of the great salt range, running east and west across the southern part of Affghanistan and the Punjab. If ever trade is thoroughly established on this river, a very considerable one might be well and cheaply carried on from this in salt and alum, the mines for both these articles being actually on the river; and, judging from some specimens brought to us,

Digitized by Google

of excellent quality. Boats can be had in plenty, and the river is perfectly safe and navigable to the sea.

The town is built on the river's bank at the foot of the mountains, and is said to contain about 10,000 inhabitants, who live chiefly by the export of salt and alum, for which they receive grain in exchange from the Punjab. We sent some letters Sir A. Burnes had furnished us with to the Mulick, or Mussulman chief of the place; who, with the chief Hindoo, visited us soon after our arrival, and sent us presents of as much food, of different kinds, as would feed all our people for the next three days.

In the evening we took a short walk along the river's bank, which is lined by rows of noble bannian-trees and gardens full of vegetables. On our return, we found the chiefs waiting at our boats with half the inhabitants of the place, all anxious to see the Feringees. They were most civil, but rather annoying from their insatiable curiosity. The chiefs came with their

Digitized by Google

moonshe to find out the news from Cabul; and, I think, did not quite believe us when we said the English did not mean to take possession of the country; and, I must own, their argument was rather a puzzler to answer. "How can you say you do not intend to keep the country, when you have just told us that the greater part of the English army remains at Cabul?"

We had a long conversation with them, and afterwards sat down to dinner; which operation, particularly the eating with knives and forks, seemed greatly to delight the good people of Karabaugh.

October 28th.—Left Karabaugh at five this morning, touched once on a rock and again on a sandbank in the dark, but after daylight went smoothly along. The mountains end completely at the town, and we are now moving through the plains of India, which we have not seen now for ten months. We made a very tolerable day's run of, I should think, some five-and-forty miles, bringing-to by the side of one of

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

[illegible] to find out the news from Cabul. [illegible] I think, did not quite believe us w[illegible] the English did not mean to ta[illegible] p[illegible] of the country; and, I mus[illegible] argument was rather a puzzler [illegible] "How can you say you do not [illegible] keep the country, when you h[illegible] [illegible] us that the greater part of the English army remains at Cabul?"

We had a long conversation with them, and afterwards sat down to dinner; which operation, particularly the eating with knives and forks, seemed greatly to delight the [illegible] people of Karabaugh.

October 28th.—Left Karabaugh at fi[illegible] [illegible] touched once on a rock and [illegible] bank in the dark, but after [illegible] smoothly along. The moun[illegible] completely at the town, and we [illegible] through the plains of India, [illegible] not seen now for ten m[illegible] [illegible] made a very tolerable day's run [illegible] [illegible] think, some five-and-forty miles, [illegible] [illegible]-to by the side of one of

Digitized by Google

H. E. F. del.t S. Bull sc.t

BOAT FROM ATTOCK.

Published by Henry Colburn Great Marlborough Street 1841

Digitized by Google

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Digitized by Google

the alluvial banks of the river, now covered with very young tamarisk, perfectly green, and having quite the appearance of corn. Walked out with our guns in the evening, but without success.

October 29th.—Started as usual at daylight, and continued on till sunset; which brought us to a low range of hills, correctly laid down in my map, running nearly parallel with the river, sometimes coming quite up to the stream, and at others at a distance of three or four miles. We halted for the night at their feet. They are much the same as the Affghan hills, with the exception of being lower, and more barren and desolate-looking, if possible.

October 30th.—Made an excellent run to-day through some of the smaller channels of the Indus, over which there was often scarcely water enough for our boat to pass. However, thanks to good pilotage, we made a very fair day's work, which ended opposite the town of Dera Ismael Khan. We found the town, instead of being on the bank,

Digitized by Google

nearly three miles distant; which, of course, prevented our seeing any thing of it. There was, however, a great deal of cultivation in the neighbourhood. By our calculation we have been twenty-six hours and a half from Attock to Karabaugh, actually *en route*, and thirty-two more to Dera Ismael Khan, —in all, fifty-nine hours; making (allowing four miles per hour, which, at this time of the year, I do not consider too great) a distance of 236 miles from Attock to Dera Ismael Khan.

October 31*st.*—Started about six, and continued on for three miles, when we came upon a large fleet of boats carrying grain for the benefit of the army. How it is to get near them I know not. Poor John Company! how his money is wasted! The people with them informed us that there was an officer here doing duty for Dr. G.; and thinking it might be a civility and kindness to let a man hear the news and see a European face, we brought-to for a couple of hours, and sent a note up to him:

Digitized by Google

but, finding by his answer, of merely salaam, that his anxiety for society or news was not great, we again got under way, and by eleven were out of sight of Dera Ismael Khan. We continued standing on the remainder of the day, making a run, according to our calculation, of some six-and-thirty miles.

November 1st.—Started as usual soon after daylight. Stopped for a few minutes at a pretty little village on the bank, to get grass for Sandwith's horse and some vegetables for ourselves, and obtained some excellent turnips and butter,—great luxuries to us. The villagers, to whom we were great lions, brought us down an unfortunate boy, who seemed one mass of disease; expecting, with their usual faith in Europeans, that we should immediately cure him. Unfortunately for the credit of our country, we were not doctors, and had not so much as a pill on board; so the poor mother was obliged to go away unsatisfied. We remained half an hour, and then continued our uninteresting route till sunset. The

Digitized by Google

whole view is one great sea, either of sand-bank or water; and with the exception of an occasional village, with a tree or two about, nothing is to be seen to break the dreariness of the scene.

November 2d and 3d. — Continued on eleven hours the first day and rather more the second, which brought us within five or six miles of the town Dera Ghazee Khan.

November 4th. — Moved off from our night station, and again halted about nine, at a spot nearly opposite Dera Ghazee Khan; which place, like Dera Ismael, is some four miles from the river's bank. We made this distance as follows, allowing rather more than three miles and a half per hour:—From Attock to Karabagh, 105 miles; from Karabagh to Dera Ismael Khan, 130; and from Dera Ismael to Dera Ghazee Khan, 177: or 412 miles the whole distance. As, in a straight line, the distance is about 300 miles, this gives upwards of 100 for twistings and turnings—which calculation is certainly not beyond the mark.

Digitized by Google

		Hours.	Min.	
October	25..	9	30	
	26..	9	30	
	27..	7	30	
				26 30
	28..	10	30	Karabaugh.
	29..	10	30	
	30..	11	30	
				32 30
	31..	8	40	Dera Ismael Khan.
November	1..	11	0	
	2..	11	0	
	3..	11	0	
	4..	2	35	Dera Ghazee Khan.
				44 15

Mitten Kote, $40^h\ 0^m$.

We halted under a fine bank covered with palm-trees, and sent our servants in to buy any thing there might be in the town worth having. We sent by them letters into the town from Burnes, which brought out the Nawab's deputy, with presents of all we wanted for our people and horses. He sat and chatted for more than hour, and then walked into the cabin to examine our dinner table, which was laid out, and our guns and pistols

Digitized by Google

scattered about it. I was most thankful to get rid of him, which we did at last, and to sit down to a comfortable dinner.

November 5th.—Left Dera Ismael Khan, and though detained twice, more than an hour and a half, by sticking on sandbanks, made a tolerable day's run of some five-and-thirty miles.

November 6th.—We started at our usual time; but about nine a strong wind struck up, which, after bumping us against the bank for at least half an hour, at last obliged us to anchor: and we were thus detained on a sandbank till nearly four o'clock,—when the wind dying, we again got under way, and obtained two more hours' work out of our idle boatmen.

November 7th.—Made a good day's work, and latterly, through an improved country, to, according to our calculation, within some twenty miles of Mitten Kote, where the Sutlej enters the Indus. The jungle and swamps made the halting-place so damp that, on getting up in the morn-

Digitized by Google

ing, every thing about me was perfectly wet.

November 8th.—After sailing about twenty miles we came in sight of the town of Mitten Kote, and I again saw old ground; the two white mosques pointing out its situation miles before we actually came up to it. We passed by the town, not without some opposition from Runjeet Sing's custom-house officers, past whom we sailed in defiance, and moved on to Charcher, a large village on the left bank, beyond the junction of the rivers, in my old friend Buhawull Khan's territories, where we remained some hours collecting provisions for our advance to Bukkor. We make thirty-one hours and a half, or 134 from Dera Ghazee Khan to Mitten Kote. About three we again got under way, and by night had made some fifteen miles of our onward course.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XII.

Voyage down the Indus Continued—A Rencontre—Arrival at Rohree—Indian Hospitality—Voyage Resumed—The Sehwan Range of Mountains—Arrival at Hyderabad—New Arrangements—Tatta—Much ado about Nothing—Embark for Bombay—First Night at Sea—Cutch and Scinde—Coasting—Beautiful Country—Malabar Point—Bombay Harbour—Meetings with Friends—The Governor's Levee—Wealth of the Parsees—Society at Bombay—Embark for England.

November 9th, 10th, and 11th.—We continued steadily on for some forty miles per day, without adventure of any kind, till the last, when we passed a boat with a European officer tracking up the river to Feeroozpoor. We stopped and went on board his boat; found it was a Captain W., who had come out too late last year to join his corps (the 37th), and had been

Digitized by Google

detained all the hot weather at Bukkor, and was now on his way up to join his regiment at Cabul. We had an hour's talk with him, and then returned on board our own boat and continued on.

November 12*th.*—Our boatmen row so little, and are so lazy, that after a hard day's work, and making all the play we could, we found ourselves at night still seven or eight miles from Rohree.

November 13*th.*—Started as usual at daylight, and, making excellent running, arrived safely at Rohree about ten. Brigadier Gordon, the commandant, and his Brigade-major, received us most hospitably; the latter pitching tents, and the former finding us in breakfast, &c. &c. We shall, I conclude, stop here four or five days for Mrs. C. and Mrs. M., two relations of mine; who will not, I should imagine, be here before the 18th or 19th.

We have, since the above was written, been waiting with great patience for the ladies. The delay, however, was prevented

Digitized by Google

from being tiresome by the kindness of all the people here, particularly the mess of the 23d N. I. Thus, with lots of books, and as many horses as I liked to ride, time has passed most agreeably; so much so, that instead of sketching and writing, and making up for time lost in the boats, I found that the day the ladies arrived I had done no one earthly thing since I arrived. However, I was delighted to see their boats at length on the 23d, and once more have the pleasure of seeing a lady's face. They arrived about twelve, and remained here the rest of the day. I walked out in the evening to shew them the lions, few and far between as they are. They arranged to start again in the morning; we therefore got all our traps on board, and left them, to take our farewell dinner at the mess.

November 24th.—Left Bukkor *en route* for Hyderabad. Found our boat to be about the slowest in our little fleet, which is a great nuisance. However, we managed

Digitized by Google

to get to our halting-ground within half-an-hour of the rest, and I hope that the blowing-up we have given our rascals may have the desired effect of making them move quicker for the future.

On the two following days we found our boat move quite as well, if not better, than the greater part of our fleet, and on the last we arrived opposite Sehwan. Halted for the evening, seven or eight miles lower down. The Sehwan range of hills had been in sight the greater part of the day. They are not very high: probably not more, generally, that 1000 feet.

November 28*th*.—About twelve stopped opposite Hyderabad, the capital of Scinde. Of the city itself we saw but one high tower in the distance, it being some three miles from the gaute. A fine garden is on the right bank belonging to the Ameer, and several superb barges were alongside the gaute, belonging to the same worthy. Sandwith and I parted here, he and his boat remaining, to stay a day or two with

Digitized by Google

the resident, Mr. Eastwick; and I took up my quarters with Captains C. and W., of the 3d Dragoons. The changing boats took us some half-an-hour, after which followed the ladies' boat, which had not stopped. We continued on till five, had our walk, and started again at five this morning.

November 29th.—Came in sight of Tatta, or rather the gaute of it, about one o'clock. Found plenty of letters waiting. In about three hours Captain M. made his appearance, who takes his lady and her mother with him across the country to the Garah river, and thence on to Bombay; but we found that the vessel he had got would not hold more than the ladies and himself, and that we, therefore, must look out for ourselves.

November 30th.—The whole day has been spent in fidgeting about camels, bearers and all the thousand and one difficulties which getting ladies across a strange land always entails. I have become so accustomed to bring my baggage into a small

Digitized by Google

compass and take things easily, from long experience with the army, that the quantity of traps and fidget about getting across this short distance quite astonished me.

In the evening we received a note from Captain Carless, who commands the Indian navy at the mouth of the Indus, saying that boats would be ready near Vikker if we liked to take them; and we accordingly leave the rest of the party to-morrow, and continue on down the river.

December 1st.—Got off the baggage, &c. of the other party during the night, and this morning once more took leave of them in their palanquins, and continued our route down the river with one or two other boats. Our hopes of arriving at the place where the sea-going boat was at anchor to-day were not accomplished, and we came-to for the night at a small village just within the influence of the tides. The great Indus here separates into many channels, of which some two or three only are generally navigable, and even these are far from

Digitized by Google

agreeable ones; an absence of headlands, continual shifting of sands, and other *dés-agrémens* peculiar to this river, making it one of the most dangerous in the world. Of the country one can see but little; grass jungle, of the highest and most luxuriant growth, being the only thing visible, with the exception of an occasional miserable hut on poles, to be out of the reach of the inundation of the wild animals.

December 2*d.*—Made our last river voyage of some twenty miles, passing one of the mouths called the Hijamree, which last year was the only navigable one. At present it offers a striking example of the uncertain pilotage of this river, being nearly dry, and not capable of floating a boat of half-a-dozen tons.

We found Captain Carless with a Company's vessel on the bank of the main stream. He kindly gave us every information, and shewed us our sea-boats. We had a happy choice of two, both sufficiently filthy, having brought up coal for the use

Digitized by Google

of the steamers. However, one having a decent hole called a cabin we gladly engaged it, and employed ourselves all day in getting it washed and our baggage stowed below.

December 3d.—After a great deal of bother with the ship's people, at last got under way about eleven o'clock; but soon after starting our Captain started off on shore, and though he promised to come back immediately, we soon found he had no such polite intention. We were, therefore, obliged, after going on for ten or twelve miles, to come again to an anchor for the night; and on questioning the seamen of the guard gun-boat, at the river's mouth, we found that there was no help for it, as it is impossible to get over the bar at low water, such as it now is.

December 4th.—Our Captain having come on board at daylight we were quickly under way, and passed out of the river and into the open sea. We soon got a stiff breeze; and passed the Palinurus surveying vessel,

Digitized by Google

anchored about five miles out. I began to be troubled with sea-sickness; not actually sick, but mighty squeamish. Passed a most unpleasant night, the wind and sea both increasing, and our little boat pitching detestably.

December 5th.—This morning the wind died gradually down, and at length gave us the pleasant variety of calm; the vessel, however, pitching still horribly, and our heads and stomachs still far from happy. We are running down the coasts of Cutch and Scinde, just near enough to see the breakers on shore, and make it out to be a low, barren, sandy-looking coast.

December 6th.—Stomach all well again. Better winds. Passed across part of the gulf of Cutch, which separates Guzerat and Cutch Gundava. Providence is all we have to trust to, should wind enough get up to drive us out to sea, out of sight of land; for though nominally we have a compass on board, its hand has long been at a stand-still, and, excepting the headlands and points

Digitized by Google

along the coast, our crew are quite innocent of knowing any thing worth knowing for our guidance.

December 7th.—Running slowly along the coast of Guzerat the whole day, passing several towns and villages, the country seeming to be both well cultivated and thickly inhabited; and the next day, the 8th, passed a large town and fort, the latter said to be nearly deserted, from having sunk considerably of late years, called Bellawul, near which several vessels were at anchor, having come from Muscat with dates.

December 9th.—Continued light winds and calms; so much so, that I imagine we have not made twenty miles in as many hours.

December 10th.—Rather better luck: made a tolerable run during the day, and about four o'clock made the high land on the coast of Concan, and, as we flattered ourselves, within a few hours' sail of Bombay. We fancied we should find ourselves in harbour by daylight to-morrow morning:

Digitized by Google

but on getting up this morning, the 11th, all our hopes of getting early to Bombay were put an end to, for though near land, we found that our villanous navigators had brought us some forty miles above the harbour, and that we consequently *may*, if we have luck, get in this evening; but that must be all we can expect. As far as seeing a beautiful country goes, this cannot be regretted, for nothing can be prettier than our sail of this morning. The mountains rise about ten miles inland, between which and the sea is apparently a fine undulating country, covered with palm and cocoa-nut trees, while thousands of fishing-boats cover the sea in all directions.

Bombay seemed to be going farther away every minute, and the wind dying down we had every prospect of being becalmed; but, happily, about three, the wind again got up, and soon after we were abreast of Malabar Point, and against the rocks on which the bungalows stand, the surf was beating in

Digitized by Google

great style. We then sailed slowly across the bay of Colaba, rounded the point on which the lighthouse stands, and about seven o'clock came to an anchor off the fort.

It did one's heart good once more to see European houses and ships of war, a line-of-battle ship (the Wellesley) and two frigates being anchored close to us. We found it too late to go ashore, so we accordingly sat down to a somewhat wretched dinner, inasmuch as our sea-stock of wine and beer was out, and we could get nothing but some bad fish. However, we managed pretty well, and retired to our hard couches to be well bit by the bugs—I trust for the last time.

December 12*th.*—We all turned out early, both to have a look at the shipping before the sun rose, and to get our baggage out of our dirty vessel.

Nothing can be prettier than Bombay harbour, formed by the island of Colaba, between which and the main land a

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

slowness of a palanquin and one's anxiety to see old friendly faces again. But I did at last get there, and placed myself on the ground at Colonel B.'s bungalow, one of the half-dozen staff ones which surround the main house.

The government-house of Malabar Point is a mere Indian bungalow, thatched and chunamed, but beautifully situated for coolness, on a point of land running into the sea, which lashed the rocks on which the house stands on three of the four sides, while every breeze that blew out at sea generally reached Malabar Point. Around it had been constructed, at different times, sundry other smaller ones, for the benefit of the staff of the Governor, and in one of these I took up my abode. The great inconvenience of this house is its distance from Bombay, being nearly three miles from the town; a very serious one when one is preparing for a long voyage, and is obliged to obtain every thing from the fort, where all the shops are.

Have had long conversations with the

Digitized by Google

breakwater has been formed; and I should imagine the harbour to be very safe, except from westerly winds. On Colaba stand the barracks, some public offices, and the lighthouse; and on the opposite side of the harbour high mountains rise up in all directions.

We landed at what is here called the Apollo Bunder, a very fine pier running out into the harbour, on which thousands of bales of cotton were standing ready for shipment. From this we crossed a drawbridge over the moat, and found ourselves within the celebrated fort of Bombay. It is stuck as thick as hops with houses and streets, which, though I believe a strong place in reality, make it look very different.

We went first to a place yclept the Victoria Hotel, where I left my two companions, and, getting hold of a palanquin, started off for one of the Governor's houses, Malabar Point, where Sir Henry Fane is now residing. The distance, really some five miles, seemed nearly doubled by the

Digitized by Google

slowness of a palanquin and one's anxiety to see old friendly faces again. But I did at last get there, and placed myself on the ground at Colonel B.'s bungalow, one of the half-dozen staff ones which surround the main house.

The government-house of Malabar Point is a mere Indian bungalow, thatched and chunamed, but beautifully situated for coolness, on a point of land running into the sea, which lashed the rocks on which the house stands on three of the four sides, while every breeze that blew out at sea generally reached Malabar Point. Around it had been constructed, at different times, sundry other smaller ones, for the benefit of the staff of the Governor, and in one of these I took up my abode. The great inconvenience of this house is its distance from Bombay, being nearly three miles from the town; a very serious one when one is preparing for a long voyage, and is obliged to obtain every thing from the fort, where all the shops are.

Have had long conversations with the

Digitized by Google

General touching the Indus, and am to go to Parell, to be examined by the Governor of Bombay, in a day or two.

December 14*th.*—Went to call at Parell, the government house. We drove some seven miles through the thousand and one streets of the environs of Bombay; to which the palm-trees, with the white houses peeping out here and there, gave a very oriental and pretty appearance. Parell is a very nice house, with magnificent rooms, and particularly well furnished for an Indian house. We found a considerable levee of people assembled to make their bows to Lady Carnac.

We returned as we came, and afterwards had our usual evening ride upon the esplanade, the fashionable Hyde Park of Bombay. This is far better than the course in Calcutta, the number of superb turn-outs that the Parsees drive making it far more gay. Many of these people are immensely rich, and think nothing of giving 300 guineas for a buggy horse.

December 20*th.*—Days pass quickly by,

Digitized by Google

as would the nights, in a comfortable bungalow, were it not for the heat and mosquitoes; the former never allowing the thermometer to be below 80° at night, and the latter biting one by thousands.

Few people know the luxury of being quiet, and not being obliged to pack up one's all and begin marching either on land or in boats, as I had done for so many months previously; and till they do, none can appreciate the comfort I felt the few days I remained stationary here, before I again began moving towards old England.

Paid my money and took my place in the steamer. Went on board yesterday to look about me, but the smell of the oil was quite sufficient for an ordinary stomach.

December 22*d.*—People here are most kind, and the result of three or four calls I made has been as many invitations to dinner as I wish to accept. There seems to be far less formality here than in Calcutta, which greatly improves the society.

Sir Henry continues to improve in health,

Digitized by Google

though but slowly, his constitution having been much shaken by his long residence in the country. I look forward with dread to the steamer journey, to which I am so soon to be condemned. As the General goes on board on the 30th, some friends have most kindly asked me to come and live with them till the ships sail: which pleasant offer I mean to take instant advantage of.

December 30th.—To-day being the day for Sir Henry going on board, about one we got into the General's carriage, and started off for Parell to tiffin there. Had a very good and pleasant one, and soon after started off, escorted by all the Governor's aides-de-camp and staff, towards the gaute. We found the whole street of the esplanade lined with troops, and all the fashion of Bombay assembled to see the embarkation. We passed through these; drove down to the water-side, where the General bade good-by to all old friends, and then went on board, under a thundering salute from the batteries, and the yards

Digitized by Google

of the line-of-battle ships manned in his honour.

After seeing Sir Henry on board, I returned and galloped up to Colonel D.'s, whose kindness and hospitality I shall long remember.

December 31*st.*—The steamer had been under orders to sail, and I left Mrs. D.'s at twelve, in the expectation of getting off in the course of an hour or two; but had no sooner arrived at the fort than the steamer from Suez was telegraphed, and soon after orders arrived to detain our ship till three to-morrow. This I cared little about, having so pleasant a house to go to; to which I quickly made off, and spent, as usual, a very pleasant evening.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XIII.

On board the Zenobia—Start for England—Bad Accommodations—A Narrow Escape—Sameness of Steaming—Harbour of Aden—Camel-riding—A Pleasant Day—On Board again—The Straits of Babel Mandel—The Red Sea—Mocha—No Pilot—Disembark at Cossier—Journey across the Desert—Travelling Arrangements—Luxuries of Water after Drought—First View of the Nile—Ruins of Thebes—Great Temple of Carnac.

Wednesday, January 1st.—Having previously taken my passage in the Honourable Company's war-steamer Zenobia, for which I paid the small sum of 800 rupees, or 80*l.* to-day I bade good-by to my Bombay friends, and joined Sir Henry, who I found had landed, and was staying at the Superintendent's house. After remaining an hour or two there, he got into his carriage, and we drove down to the

Digitized by Google

gaute, entered his accommodation boat, and proceeded first to his ship, the Malabar, which was lying beyond the Zenobia, with her fore-topsail loose, ready to go to seai mmediately. After a delay of half an hour, receiving letters and orders for England, and bidding him and the rest good-by, I left his ship with Colonel B., who came on board the steamer with me. He went down to my cabin, and agreed, with every one who has seen it, that it is quite impossible for any Christian to live in such a dog-hole.

It is difficult to say why the accommodations on board the steam-ships of the Company should be so very much worse than those in the Mediterranean; for every thing is conducted by that body upon the most liberal scale. But such is the fact; and in no part of the world have I ever met with dearer or worse cabins. In fact, with the exception of the first night, I never could bring myself to sleep in my disgusting cabin, and far preferred the top of the table

Digitized by Google

in the dining saloon to being roasted alive, and half-killed by smell and suffocation.

I at last bade good-by to all friends who had also come to see us off; and the mails having come on board, about four we got under way, and ran out of Bombay harbour at a rattling pace.

I cast many a lingering look behind at the country in which I had spent several of the most happy years of my life, which was now fast lessening in the distance. We soon passed the Malabar, though she had left three hours before us; and the wind freshening, we had soon skysails and studding sails set in addition to our great steam power (360 horse), and were tearing through the water at a great rate.

January 4th.—Our party to-day at dinner was but small; and even I, though I managed to remain, was rather troubled towards the end, though matters never quite arrived at the extreme point.

Found our steamer a very fine, steady boat, though not fast. A country boat, laden

Digitized by Google

with wool, had a most fortunate escape coming out of harbour. She ran right across our bows, and was only saved by our helm being put hard down; and even then she touched our stern, carrying away some of the spars from her booms.

Our party consists of about twenty people, mostly on their way to England. W. of the — Dragoons is my chum and cabin companion — two persons sleeping in each; so that, in fact, 160*l.* are paid for this little hole, for sixteen days' occupation! We have no less than four ladies on board, who, being dreadfully sick, I have not yet seen. Their children, however, though not visible, make themselves heard in a most disagreeable manner, scarcely ever ceasing squalling for five minutes together. If the accommodation were but a little better, we should do very well, as the ship is a very fine one and the living very tolerable.

January 7th.—Our ship runs along most steadily and agreeably, at from seven to

Digitized by Google

eight knots an hour; and, with any luck, the 10th will see us in Aden harbour. Our party is much like that in every other steamer or packet—of every shade and variety, from the soldier to the methodist parson; and contains pleasant and agreeable people, as well as others quite the contrary: the former much predominating.

January 8th.—In a steamer there is so little variety, from no sail having to be taken in or set, that even the usual sameness of ship-board is doubled. But one has always the comfort of thinking, as the young lady said of her old husband, "that our troubles will not be of long continuance."

January 9th.—The high land on the Arabian coast in sight nearly the whole day. The mountains apparently of much the same bare and barren cast as those of Affghanistan, and equally uninviting.

January 10th.—About breakfast-time we came in sight of a vessel, which proved to be the Elphinstone sloop-of-war, blockading

Digitized by Google

a town on the coast which has been attacking some of our posts near Aden.

Continued running along the coast, and towards evening made the high land forming one side of the Bay of Aden. It continued, however, still so far off at bed-time that I turned in and had two hours' sleep before we came to an anchor; which we did about twelve o'clock at night, in this really very fine harbour, with several vessels near us.

January 11*th.* — All up, of course, with the light to see Aden. The harbour is small, but quite large enough for all purposes, and securely defended from all winds. The mountains rise within 100 yards of our ship; a bold, though bare and rocky, coast. On the opposite side is the low and sandy shore of Arabia, with a distant view of several villages and towns, the larger of which is the residence of the Sultan, from whom we bought Aden.

We breakfasted on board, and then made a large party to go and see the lions; and

Digitized by Google

I to call on Capt. H., the political agent here, to whom I had letters of introduction from Bombay. On landing we found camels and donkeys in plenty for hire, on one of which each of us soon got; and never shall I forget the scene. I had often ridden camels in Affghanistan, and was, therefore, up to it; but some who had never had that pleasure, jolted first on one side, then on the other, swearing huge oaths all the time, till at last one or two could bear it no longer and hallooed to be taken off. Those who got on donkeys were not much better off, for these happening to be the heaviest of the party, brought down their steeds and had to walk.

As to me I soon met a horse, kindly sent down by Capt. H. for my use; and, mounting him, I cantered up to the town, placed in a valley about four miles from the anchorage. The road led at the foot of the rocks, along the sea-shore, for some two miles, and from thence through two mountain-passes into a bare valley, where, sur-

Digitized by Google

rounded by the mountains, is the little town, now covered on all sides by tents and reed huts for our troops. The character of the country and the dirt of the town are so perfectly Affghan, that I could fancy myself again with the old army of the Indus.

Each of the highest points and headlands has watch-towers, and small posts of our troops on the look-out; the Arabs taking good care they (the troops) shall have no sinecure in our new possessions, by continually attacking our outposts.

I rode up to Capt. H.'s house, which was formerly the residence of the chief of the place, but is now much improved and nicely furnished, in a way understood by ladies only. I found his lady quite "a diamond in the desert;" and I took up my quarters, by their invitation, for the rest of the day there. We discussed all our Bombay friends then, and what between their society and the delight of getting away

Digitized by Google

from our smelling ship, I have seldom spent a more agreeable day.

At five H. again gave me a mount, and with his lady rode down with me to the harbour; where they bade me good-by, and I soon found myself once more on board, the ship getting under way half an hour afterwards.

Sunday, 12th.—Had an excellent run all night, and, on getting up in the morning, found we were close upon the straits of Babel Mandel. The two great continents of Africa and Asia here come within a mile of each other, with very high bold land on either shore. We passed through them at the rate of nine knots an hour, and soon found ourselves in the far-famed Red Sea.

After passing the straits, the sea opens out to about fifty miles wide almost immediately, we keeping nearer the coast of Asia for the purpose of standing in to Mocha and getting a pilot. We had a very heavy sea the whole day and a ten-knot breeze; so that when, about twelve, we

Digitized by Google

lay-to off Mocha, for the pilot to come on board, the sea washed over us considerably, and sent many of the ladies down to their cabins sick.

We could only see the mosques and minarets at a distance; and the pilot-boat coming off, told us that all the pilots were away in different ships, so that we must do as well as we could without one.

January 17th.—Continued steadily on till last night, when the captain having stated that, if we wished, he would land us at Cossier, instead of going on direct to Suez, four of us determined to do so, and from thence visit Thebes. Accordingly this morning we anchored off the town, a small and particularly hot-looking spot, built entirely of mud, with a small fort of stone belonging to Mehemet Ali, two of whose vessels were at anchor in the roads.

A fat native gentleman, the British agent, came off to us; and under his escort we landed, and went up to his house. Here we made our arrangements for our march

Digitized by Google

across the desert, and are to make a start of it to-morrow. We passed the night in his house on the ground, disturbed only by the cats, who seemed to swarm on the house-tops and invaded our quarters more than once. Round the top of the single chamber which composed the house ran a certain number of air-holes, large enough to admit one of these animals; and as this house seemed to be kept for the benefit of such Feringees as paid the agent a visit, and was consequently seldom occupied, it usually served as a seraglio for all the cats of the town. Thoroughly tired by my long day's work I had just fallen asleep, when I felt something fall on me from the top of the room; and on jumping up to make out the cause, found no less than four cats among us. Two of us seizing sticks immediately charged; and, after chasing round and round, with much squalling and scratching, we at last succeeded in procuring an evacuation of the premises, and slept in peace for the remainder of the night.

Digitized by Google

January 18*th.*—This morning we started on our desert trip, having procured a small and bad tent sent to this place, for the benefit of travellers, by the Bombay people. Our marching establishment consisted of a dozen camels, as many donkeys, three fellows to pitch our tent, a native servant who speaks French, and a cook, We have an earthen cooking-pot, which serves for dish also; two tea-cups, a mug, and one tumbler for drinking purposes, and utensils; and for table, we use a box. With this set-out, and the addition of some fresh water, potted soups, and some eggs, chickens, wine, and beer, we made our exit from Cossier, bidding adieu to our civil friend the agent, who first begged out of us a silver spoon and fork.

Cossier itself is a filthy hole—wretched in the extreme, perhaps holding a thousand inhabitants, whose means of subsistence it would be very difficult to determine.

After sundry mishaps by camels falling, laying down, &c. we arrived at midday at

Digitized by Google

a bad well, called Bere Enghizi, or the English well, where we halted for an hour to refresh our animals and ourselves. We afterwards again started, marched about as much more, and came-to for the night at a wild spot among the mountains, in a slight shower of rain. We managed to pitch our tent after a fashion, and made an excellent dinner of potted soup and cheese.

The whole of to-day's route put me much in mind of the worst part of Affghanistan, with the advantage of having less and worse water. There was neither water nor forage at our place of rest to-night, and the night was villanously cold; but, thanks to our march of twenty-six miles, more than half of which we had walked, we slept it out in spite of its discomfort.

January 19th.—Got under way soon after daylight, marching through the same style of country as yesterday; halted twice during the day, both times at wells of very bad water, and finally halted at a place without any name, at eight o'clock at night,

Digitized by Google

after a somewhat distressing march of thirty-six miles, without any material adventure, our camels going wonderfully, considering the wretched animals they are.

January 20*th.*—Started soon after six, marching though this same bleak and desolate country, which is only fit for camels and Arabs. Little or no water on the route until we came to the halting-place, a considerable Arab village, with the remains of two large buildings near it, with tops like beehives; where we got a fresh supply of eggs and fowls, and had the inexpressible pleasure of a wash and shave, which the want of water had prevented our being able to do for several days before. Began to find camel riding less disagreeable, and for more than half the journey we generally treat our animals to our society. Bere Ulgeeta is the name of the village, which will be always remembered by me with pleasure, the luxury of a sufficient supply of water being only to be appreciated by those who have experienced the want of it.

Digitized by Google

January 21*st.*—Left Ulgeeta and moved on till twelve o'clock, soon after which we came in sight of the Nile and the cultivation on its banks; most grateful after the desert sterility.

Instead of barren and wretched country, such as that we had now happily left behind us, we now looked down upon a rich and varied scene, the noble river running through huge sheets of cultivation, mixed with villages, and in the distance the ruins of the great city of Thebes.

The stony desert which we have just crossed over covers the entire country between Thebes and Cossier; and though the road is excellent, still it is almost impassable from want of water, the small and bad wells which exist being only fit for camels; and every drop of water, such as an European requires to drink, must be carried from the latter place. With this exception, no difficulty of any kind occurs; and, coming *from* India, it is a route I should strongly recommend to all overland tra-

Digitized by Google

vellers. Going to India, the time one would be going *up* the Nile, and the uncertainty of the steamers in the Red Sea stopping at Cossier, make it more difficult.

About one we first came upon the cultivation, and continued along it till four o'clock, when we halted near a large village, the principal man there sending us a guard; who were so far useful, that, as I conclude their general trade was thieving, employing them thus prevented their mistaking our goods for their own. The country around is in beautiful cultivation, and thick with villages in all parts, though few but old men and boys are to be seen; the latter even with their fore-finger cut off, to prevent their being taken off by the conscription. The great temple of Carnac is in sight from our encampment-ground, and to-morrow will see our tent among the ruins of Thebes.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XIV.

Ruins of the great Temple of Carnac—Town and Ruins of Luxor—Western Thebes—Medinet Abou and the Memnonium—The Tombs of the Kings—Journey resumed—Native Extortion—Temple of Denderah—Rich Cultivation of the Nile—Character of the Egyptians—A Turkish Bath—Excavations at Beni Hassan—First View of the Pyramids—Arrival at Cairo—Hill's Hotel—The Lions of Cairo—Antiquities—Pasha's Garden—A Day at the Pyramids—Egyptian Taste in Gas-lighting.

January 22*d.*—Marched soon after daylight, and in the course of two hours came upon the great temple of Carnac, the most extraordinary ruin of this wonderful ancient city. We entered it by the great entrance door on the western side, entering which you come upon the first court of this wonderful temple, to describe which would far exceed the time or paper I possess.

Digitized by Google

It may be sufficient to say that this great entrance is 360 feet long and 148 feet high, the great doorway being of itself 64 feet high. The entrance terminates in two great statues in front of the second propylæum, to which you ascend by a flight of twenty-seven steps, now much broken. This brings you into the great hypostyle hall and great wonder of Carnac; it being supported by 134 colossal pillars, in nine parallel rows, some of which we measured, and found to be thirty-six feet in circumference, or twelve in diameter. The whole temple is of such enormous size that it is, I should say, justly called the largest structure the world ever beheld.

Of its ruins, that of the great hall alone covers an extent of 57,629 square feet, or five times as large as the whole area of St. Martin's-le-Grand. The whole area of the temple covers several acres of ground.

After partially looking over this great temple, with the determination of returning another day, we started for our tents, pitched

Digitized by Google

about two miles off on the sand, by the side of the river, near the modern town of Luxor; a wretched hole, chiefly remarkable for dirt and pigeons. We saw while here the ruins, now chiefly built over, about Luxor; the principal being a fine granite column, of which the fellow was some few years since taken away and sent to Paris, while this has been preserved by being bought by our government. The ruins at Luxor are far inferior to those of Carnac, and so filthy that the whole pleasure of visiting them is taken away.

Found no other Europeans here just now; though, from the numerous names of Smith and Thompson, with 1840 by them, there seem to have been many here of late.

January 23*d.*—Started across the Nile in the ferry-boat, with all our long-eared steeds, for the purpose of seeing the temples at Western Thebes. They are situated some half-hour's ride from the river, half buried in the ruins of deserted Arab villages of unburnt brick. Those best worth

Digitized by Google

seeing are the great Temple of Medinet Abou; a smaller one, called the Memnonium; and the two seated Colossi, commonly called Shamie and Damie. Nothing could be finer and more beautiful than one and all; but, after the temple of Carnac, even these magnificent ones lost much of their effect. They are, however, well worth coming any

South Gate of the Great Temple of Jupiter at Western Thebes.

Digitized by Google

distance to see, and the whole day was consumed before we had finished examining and sketching, so that the tombs of the kings were reserved for another day.

We got home in time for dinner; and our re-embarkation seemed to give great amusement to an American lady, who, with her husband, had arrived during our expedition. While at dinner an Englishman, a Mr. D., paid us a visit, he being on his way to the cataracts of the Nile. He seemed by no means cut out for a traveller; he was well packed up in a Mackintosh, and complained grievously of the cold night air.

January 24th.—Again crossed the river, after which a two-hours' donkey ride brought us to the valley in which these extraordinary excavations are situated. The road is up the dry course of the stream, and the character of the country precisely that of the desert. The entrances to these tombs are so concealed by rubbish, that if one was not guided to them it would be almost impossible to find them. Some per-

Digitized by Google

son, more patriotic than the generality of travellers, has numbered them all, and they are now generally known by these numbers. Those best worth seeing are No. 17 (discovered by Belzoni), Nos. 11 and 9, and No. 2, for a sarcophagus which it contains nearly entire.

It is very fatiguing work climbing up and down; but Belzoni's will well repay the trouble, being from 300 to 400 feet long; having numerous large rooms and passages, each beautifully carved and painted from end to end, and covered with hieroglyphics, all carved out of the solid rock.

We returned home, heartily tired, to find that our boat, which was on its way from Kous, had been pressed by Government to carry corn; and we have been, therefore, obliged to make a bargain with a fellow here to carry us down to Kous in a little open boat, and to take our chance from thence.

January 25th.—Took one more good look to-day at the great temple of Carnac;

Digitized by Google

of which the more one sees, the more one is surprised at the vastness of the conception or the magnificence which could have built and supported such an edifice.

January 26th.—Left Thebes *en route* for Kous, to which we had a very pleasant passage of about ten hours, arriving at the latter place about eight at night. We immediately started off for our agent's house in the town, about a mile from the river, whom we found in a cloud of smoke surrounded by the magnates of the city. He was a good-natured, fat Turk; and, after pipes and coffee had been discussed, we proceeded to business. He said that Government were seizing all the boats on the river for grain, which made it most difficult to get any; but that, if we liked, there were two here which he believed could be obtained.

At this stage of the matter in walks an agent of the Governor, who spoke French very well, who began by informing us that every boat was taken up by the Governor

Digitized by Google

of the place for conveyance of grain; but that "son Altesse," as he was pleased to call the Governor, would, in consideration of his great love for the English nation, permit us to have one which belonged to himself, for the trifling consideration of 1500 piastres, or 15*l.*—the regular sum being two. This sum, after plenty of discussion, came down to eight; and we refusing to pay even this, the matter was left for further consideration to-morrow.

January 27th.—We found a dirty boat this morning, which agreed to take us for 600; and our friend, Seyd Allee, coming down soon after, we got him to conclude the bargain, making the best we could of a bad job, and throwing over "son Altesse" altogether. We made over our tent to be sent back to Cossier, and spent the rest of the day in examining the magnificent temple of Denderah, by far the finest and most perfect ancient temple in Egypt. It is situated about three-quarters of an hour's ride from the river, on the

Digitized by Google

opposite side from Kous, half-hidden by the remains of filthy, ruined Arab villages.

January 28th.—Left Kous in our new boat, with the dirtiest and worst crew and master it was ever my misfortune to be with. We made very little advance all day, the wind being so very strong against us; and when we stopped for the night, which we did about eleven, we had scarcely cleared thirty miles. The whole banks were beautifully cultivated to the water's edge, shewing what this fine pashalic might become if placed in good hands, and under a government which did not grind its subjects in the way this does.

January 31st. — Continued slowly on, making from thirty to forty miles per day, yesterday staying part of the day at Gerjah and to-day at Ekmun, both large villages. The former having some tolerably handsome minarets, though, like all others, too filthy to go near.

Passed and had some conversation with an English gentleman on his way to

Digitized by Google

the cataracts. Passed many boats during the day, all taking advantage of what delays us so much — this strong northerly breeze. The construction of these boats is so indifferent, that, even with the stream in our favour, we found it almost impossible to get on; and our boatmen, who are not paid by distance, sit quietly down and smoke instead of working hard.

February 1st.—Much grumbling, as usual, at the idleness and stupidity of our crew. The more one sees of the Egyptians, the more detestable they seem; such an ugly, dirty, idle, good-for-nothing set, it was never my misfortune to be among. The Affghans were by no means clean, but they did sometimes wash, which is not on record among these people. Their women are quite as bad as their lords and masters; and as to the children, such miserable, diseased, little wretches, I never before beheld.

February 2d.—Arrived this morning at Siout, the capital of Upper Egypt, a con-

Digitized by Google

siderable town, with a palace belonging to Ibrahim Pasha. Remained here the rest of the day among a crowd of other boats, which afforded some of us an opportunity of getting a Turkish bath—a luxury not to be despised after travelling in the way we are and have been.

The whole banks are lined with a kind of dwarf acacia, which, mixed with the palm, give it a gay and very cheerful appearance. Got away, after some squabbling with our boatmen, about five in the evening, and continued on the greater part of the night.

February 3d.—Our rascals quietly go to sleep during the night, and trust entirely to Providence to keep us off sandbanks, and to prevent other boats running us down. Nevertheless, nothing can be more agreeable than passing through so fine a country as this is with so little trouble as we have in any way.

February 4th.—This morning arrived off the village of Beni Hassan, celebrated for some excavations in the mountains, about

Digitized by Google

an hour's walk from the banks. We arrived about twelve, and started off to see them. The heat was considerable, and the way both dusty and long. Moreover, when we arrived at the spot, to which we had to climb up the sides of a mountain not the least steep, I did not think what we saw repaid one for the trouble. The principal excavations are some large rooms cut in the solid rock, some of them sixty feet long and forty in height; the walls of which are covered with curious paintings representing wrestling, fighting, hunting, shooting, fishing, and many household performances among the ancients, and so far very curious, but scarcely sufficiently so to detain a man five years,—which time the Arabs say a Mr. Hay stayed here. We were, however, in a measure repaid for our hot walk by the very fine view we had of the rich valley of the Nile, with the river winding through it; and, altogether, I did not regret having gone. It took us about two hours and a half for our walk, and

Digitized by Google

seeing the excavations, which we unanimously agreed were not tombs but ancient dwelling-houses.

February 6th.—The winds continue to favour us, inasmuch as they do not shew their faces, and we glide down at the rate of from three to four miles an hour the whole day, through precisely the same kind of country as before. To-morrow, should every thing go well, we shall find ourselves safely in Mr. Hill's hotel at Cairo.

February 7th. — The first sight that shewed itself, on putting my head out into the cold air this morning, were two pyramids—those of Dashhour, which are close to the bank, near the village of that name; and soon afterwards several others appeared in sight. As we are anxious to get on, we have reserved these for another day, and continued on down the river to Cairo, where we arrived at one o'clock. We immediately started off for Hill's hotel in the centre of the European quarter of the town, where we spent the remainder of the day,

Digitized by Google

making ourselves comfortable after our voyage. Found the house very comfortable and clean; and, as usual in a place where so many English congregate, not without meeting an acquaintance or two.

Spent the day in going over the citadel of Cairo, the tomb of the Pasha's family, and those of the murdered Mamelukes. The first is built on the point of the chain of hills above the city, and seems, as far as we could judge, to be as strong as any built place can be. It commands a noble view of the city, and has many guns mounted. Several new buildings are in progress in the interior, but we did not stop to look at any thing, with the exception of the view and Joseph's well; the latter being a mere hole in the ground, dirty, and smelling particularly offensive.

We went afterwards through the city to the family tomb of the Pasha. It is a small building, with a double cupola, the interior spread with carpets and the slabs covered with gilding. His family must be

Digitized by Google

pretty numerous, for there could not be less than forty or fifty buried in the place. The Mamelukes' tombs are merely a quantity of tombs near it, in no way remarkable.

February 9th.—Went by invitation to see a valuable collection of Egyptian antiquities, belonging to a Dr. Abbot, formerly of the Pasha's service; which are well worth seeing, and, I should imagine, most valuable. In the afternoon we went to see a noble garden of the Pasha's, called Shubra, on the banks of the Nile; but it having unfortunately rained the night before, the gardener would not admit us.

February 10th.—Made up for lost time in the writing way during the morning, and in the evening started off to see the Pasha's English garden of Rhoda. It is also on the banks of the Nile, at old Cairo, some four miles from our hotel. But it well repays the trouble, being in the hands of an excellent Scotch gardener, who has liberty to thrash his understrappers *ad libitum;* which, in this country, seems most necessary. It

Digitized by Google

extends over an immense tract of country, some two miles long by one in breadth.

We went afterwards to the Nilometer, a building shewing the height of the waters; into which we had so much difficulty in getting, that we declined going at last. Got home for an Italian play, very tolerably got up in a snug little theatre here.

February 11*th.*—This morning we made our grand expedition to the Pyramids. We had to cross the Nile, and what between the slowness of our donkeys and the distance (some eight miles), the sun was somewhat hot before we arrived. We first climbed to the top of the Great Pyramid, one of the most fatiguing jobs I ever had the misfortune to try; and what between the heat and smell of the Arabs, who insisted upon lifting one up whether one liked it or no, and the height of the stones, I was nearly exhausted when I found myself on the top: the entire pyramid being some 450 feet high.

We afterwards went into the Great, and a smaller one, which has been lately explored

Digitized by Google

by Col. Vyse; the heat and smell of which operation are scarcely repaid by the view within. We had tiffin afterwards in one of the tombs; saw the great Sphinx and one or two other curiosities; and got home again, after a most fatiguing day, by five o'clock.

February 12th.—Had a very pleasant morning in the Pasha's garden of Shubra, in the French style. Looked at the whole of it, which is well worth seeing; more particularly a curious garden-house, which he has in the centre. It is built in the Italian style, and round a beautiful tank and fountain, principally of white marble; and, with the true taste of an Asiatic, he has got the place lighted with gas, and in the centre some dozen common London gas lamps, covered with the most gaudy gilding possible. We spent the morning in the gardens, and the evening in the European library, looking over some very valuable works on Egyptian antiquities.

Cairo will better repay the trouble of a visit than almost any city I know so near

Digitized by Google

England, to a person who has never seen an Asiatic town; the variety of costumes, the true native dirt and narrowness of the streets; and, above all, its bearded and smoking inhabitants, present features so very distinct from any thing one can see in Europe, that it cannot fail, I should say, to amuse a traveller. While we remained here, I went with two friends to see an Egyptian dance, which proved a very bad caricature of the same kind of thing in India, being performed by one dancer, a very ugly lady, who was sufficiently disgusting in every way; and I was most glad to get away after a short visit.

February 13*th.* — Came to an agreement with a Mr. G. and a Mr. W., the first a clergyman, the second a traveller from Italy, to join them in a boat down the Nile, and to make a start of it to-morrow morning. We accordingly spent the greater part of the day in packing and settling bills, which we cheerfully paid, having found Hill's an excellent hotel in every way.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XV.

Quit Cairo — Slow Work — The great Mahmoodieh Canal — Pompey's Pillar — Arrival at Alexandria — Noble Square — Strange Contrasts — Visits to the Pasha — His Resemblance to Runjeet Sing — Visit to the Dockyard — The Turkish and Egyptian Fleets — A Turkish Man-of-War — English Steamer — Start for Marseilles — Arrival at Malta — Quarantine — The Lazaretto — An Arrival — Horace Vernet — Protestant Place of Worship — Visit from the Governor.

Embarked once more on the Nile, our two new companions making our party up to six. Found our boat a very large one, though scarcely large enough for our party, three out of the four being obliged to sleep on deck, which is somewhat cold. After much bother and delay, the Rais, or Captain, finally came on board about eleven o'clock, and we soon got under way, with a fair

Digitized by Google

wind; which, however, changed during the day, though still there not being much of it allowed us to get on, and we came to the conclusion that Nile boats are the most badly constructed things in the world, and most difficult to guide.

February 16*th.*—Made but slow work of it during the day, not arriving at Atfieh till near four o'clock in the afternoon. This place is the entrance to the great Mahmoodieh canal, which is here joined to the Nile by large flood-gates. Numbers of boats were about the place, both on the canal and on the river, the Pasha having large warehouses here for the reception of the grain brought from Upper Egypt. We lost no time in procuring another boat on the canal; a small one certainly, but sufficiently large for two to sleep in the cabin, while Captain D. and I took up our quarters on the deck: an awning on the top, to keep off the dew, made us tolerably comfortable, though still we found it rather cold.

February 17*th.*—Made an excellent

Digitized by Google

night's work along this noble canal, which must be seventy or eighty feet wide all the way. Came in sight of the sea and Pompey's pillar about eight, and at twelve came-to at the end of the canal near the town of Alexandria. Quitted our boat and started off to Hill's hotel, a large house outside the walls, where we remained until our departure from the place.

February 18*th.*—Established ourselves comfortably at Alexandria, and amused ourselves in wandering about this curious place, presenting as it does so singular a mixture of European and native, both in itself and its inhabitants. The great modern square, in which are the consulate's and principal Europeans' residences, is the finest thing in Egypt, and presents a sad contrast to the miserable dog-holes in which the regenerated *people* live outside. This part has been almost entirely built from the remains of ancient Alexandria.

February 19*th.*—Paid our official visits to Colonel Hodges, our Consul-general;

Digitized by Google

to Mr. Larkin, his deputy; and to Captain Lyons, the Company's agent.

February 20*th.*—The English steamer from Marseilles came in this morning, bringing letters from England up to the 4th; so that we are now pretty certain of being off on the 24th, the regular day. Colonel Hodges having kindly said he would take us to call on the Pasha, to-morrow is the day named, and to-day I have employed myself in looking up uniforms and hiring a steed for the occasion.

February 21*st.*—Got an excellent mount on a very decent Arab, on whose back I made a start from Colonel Hodges' house at ten. Here we assembled a tolerably numerous party, mostly Englishmen, and rode about a mile through the town, and then for half a mile along the sea-side, which brought us to the dockyard, beyond which is his palace. It is a large, irregular modern building, built of stone, plain and very simple; into which we were shewn with very little of that ceremony, and none

Digitized by Google

of that waiting, usual among Orientals. We went up a flight of steps into a handsome hall, paved with marble and hung with chandeliers. From this we entered another, surrounded with divans and hung with bad prints of men-of-war, in the left corner of which was seated Mehemet Ali, Pasha of Egypt. He acknowledged our introduction by a slight bend of his head, desired us to be seated by his side, and commenced laughing and joking with Colonel H. who carried on the whole of the conversation. The old man (who was much younger in appearance than I expected to have seen him) has a quick and intelligent eye and very pleasing countenance, with none of the despot either in his manner or face. The former put me much in mind of Runjeet Sing, he having the same quick way of speaking and restlessness of eye.

We remained with the Pasha about half an hour, and then took leave of him and started off for the dockyard, which forms one side of the harbour. There was no-

Digitized by Google

thing building, excepting a small steamer putting together, which had been sent out from England for service on the Nile. We went through the store-room and arsenals, which seemed well arranged and full; our cicerone being one of the Pasha's people, who had been brought up in England, having returned to Egypt about a year, bringing with him an English wife. He seemed perfectly to understand his business; but, unfortunately, his nine years' stay in England had made him hold cheap his present masters, and rendered him dissatisfied with his post. He shewed us some beautiful work in brass, the production of another, who, like himself, had been in England. They seemed, however, far from pleased with their pay and appointments, called them very inadequate, and seemed quite to forget that all they knew had been taught them at the Pasha's expense; and that he had, therefore, in a manner, bought their services. The great majority of the young men he has of late

Digitized by Google

years sent to Europe to be educated, have been sent to France rather than England; nearly thirty being in that country, while not above four or five have been sent to our own land.

February 24th. — While at Alexandria, the united Turkish and Egyptian fleets were lying there. No difficulty is placed in the way of Europeans who may wish to visit any of the vessels in the harbour; and, accordingly, to-day we went on board several. The first we visited was the Mahmoodieh, an immense Turkish line-of-battle ship, carrying 140 brass guns, and bearing the flag of the Pasha's admiral. The greater part of the men and officers were on shore at the daily drill; but the second captain, who was on board with some inferior officers, gave us the usual compliment of pipes and coffee, and shewed us round the ship. She was, indeed, a noble vessel; and though, to the eye of some of my naval friends, her bulkheads and bulwarks were not sufficiently strong to bear

Digitized by Google

the brunt of battle, still, to an inexperienced eye, nothing could be finer than the *tout ensemble* of this great specimen of the Turkish navy. The guns were clean, in the highest order, and very heavy; and though, to the eye of an enemy, there is a twofold pleasure in brass cannon — first, as getting sooner heated, and therefore less destructive and more unmanageable in battle; and, secondly, being far more valuable should the vessel be made a prize of — still, to the eye of a mere connoisseur, the brass has by far the advantage in beauty of appearance.

The lower store-rooms and general arrangements for the health, convenience, and comfort of the immense crews the Pasha entertains in his vessels of war, seemed excellent; and we left the ship after an hour's stay, all agreeing that this large fleet of upwards of thirty sail of the line was not in any way to be despised. We went afterwards on board an immense

Digitized by Google

frigate of seventy-six guns, and one of a smaller calibre; the former having all her guns from England, and apparently of the very best workmanship.

Paid up all one's bills, and this morning went on board H. M. steamer Megæra, Capt. Goldsmith; and at eight got under way, and rattled out of the harbour of Alexandria at a slashing pace, and bade good-by to the East.

February 27th. — For the first time sat down to breakfast this morning; the very heavy sea and bad weather we have had being much diminished. Found every thing most comfortable, and the captain very obliging and civil. Our party consists of about fifteen, half Englishmen from India; the remainder (with one exception, English also) from Egypt.

February 28th. — Had an excellent run all day, and, late at night, made the island of Malta. Came to an anchor about four in the morning in the Quarantine Harbour;

Digitized by Google

which I, of course, did not see, being long before in a happy state of oblivion of all things.

March 1*st.* — On going on deck this morning, we found ourselves lying close under the batteries of Malta, in company with several other steamers, all in a similar happy state with ourselves. The island on which we have to perform quarantine forms part of one side of the little harbour; and, after breakfast, we bade good-by to our friend the captain, and, with our luggage, soon found ourselves in the Lazaretto.

As to keeping up one's journal regularly here, it is quite a matter of impossibility, as nothing can be much more dull than the regular routine of one's life in quarantine.

March 3*d.* — Find my rooms very good; and, with the exception of being imprisoned, nothing to complain of in any way. Our mess, forming a party of five, is excellent, and not very dear; a regular *restaurateur* being kept within the bounds of Fort Manuel, for the supply of the inward man.

Digitized by Google

The Lazaretto of Malta is formed by a small island about half a mile square, on which stands a strong fortification, forming an outwork to the general lines, in which are the lines of buildings given over to us and our fellow-sufferers. The rooms are all built of stone, kept very clean, and arranged round a court-yard, beyond which one cannot move. This part of the fortifications of Malta was built by a Don Manuel de Somebody, whose bad statue stands in the centre of the courtyard.

March 10*th.*—Another lot of unfortunates made their appearance to-day from the French steamer, from Alexandria, over whom we chuckled much with the thoughts of getting out before them and leaving them in prison. Among them was the celebrated French painter, Horace Vernet, who has been to Egypt by order of Louis Philippe, for the purpose of taking a drawing of the late battle between the Turks and the troops of Mehemet Ali.

Sunday, March 13*th.*—Went to church

Digitized by Google

in the small chapel attached to the fort—a Catholic one turned into a Protestant, having still the altars, with the arms of the knights above them, and several tombs in the pavement, of mosaic work, mostly of the priests of the chapel, the heroes themselves being buried in St. John's Cathedral.

March 14*th.*—The Governor came over with a large party to see a drawing taken by Horace Vernet; and while here invited some of us to Government-house when our present imprisonment should have ceased. For some days we were all in a sad state of uncertainty, whether to go by Leghorn, Genoa, Turin, over the great St. Bernard to Basle and down the Rhine, or by the quicker route by Gibraltar, Cadiz, and Lisbon. I think it will, however, end in the latter, inasmuch as it is at present too early in the year to go *viâ* Switzerland; and after much thinking, *pro* and *con*, I have decided to go by Gibraltar, in spite of the tempestuous weather we are pretty certain to have during the equinox, as it will give

Digitized by Google

me an opportunity of seeing Lisbon and Gibraltar. Once more put my clothes in their boxes, which these fellows have kept spread about the room for this last fortnight to take away all chance of infection, which by no means improves the said articles. Some of the party took advantage of our time from the 14th to the 22d to make a short trip to Rome and Naples for the Easter week, which the departure of a small Neopolitan steamer enabled them to do.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER XVI.

Embark for Gibraltar—Rough Weather—The Gulf of Lyons—A Gale—Arrival at Gibraltar—The New Mole—The Club-house Hotel—An Invite—Capital Mess—Steeple-chase at Gibraltar—Fatal Accident—Excavations of the Rock—Embark on board the Royal Adelaide—Arrival at Cadiz—Start for Lisbon—Anchor in the Tagus—Sight Seeing—Re-embark—Vigo Bay—An Accident—Cape Finesterre—The Bay of Biscay—Conclusion.

March 22d.—The steamer made her appearance about twelve to-day, and, in the course of an hour, I once more found myself under the English flag, and running along under the high lands of Malta with a heavy head sea, which soon cleared the deck of most of its occupants,—which are happily select, consisting of some four or five only, in addition to our own party

Digitized by Google

from the quarantine; and for the next two days a heavy breeze, right in our teeth this morning, with a little too much swell to be quite agreeable, kept most of the party, myself not excepted, down in their cabins, cursing the wind and all belonging to it; but we, however, found our boat stand up manfully against the gale.

Passed an island during the second day, the name of which I was far too ill to inquire; and in the evening came in sight of the African coast. The wind strongly against us, blowing very hard, and no peace for the wicked to be had in the shape of sleep; for, our ship being quite new, the bulkheads creak to such a degree that sleep is quite impossible.

March 24th.—Gale of wind in the Gulf of Lyons. In the course of the day, the heavy sea which was running knocked away part of our starboard paddle-box, and dashed in some portion of the bows; besides frightening considerably a Turk or two and some ladies. The coast of Africa,

Digitized by Google

near Algiers, in sight the greater part of the day.

March 25th.—Our villanously long voyage will, I trust, be over by to-morrow, as we made early to-day Cape de Gata, on the Spanish coast, and are now running fast along, with land to be seen on both sides; that of Spain, which we are nearest to, being most picturesque, with the high mountains above Granada in the distance, and the following day found one's self, on getting up, alongside the new mole, with the great rock and fortifications of Gibraltar towering above us. Got out one's baggage, bade adieu to our captain, and soon found ourselves in the Club-house Hotel at Gibraltar.

Had breakfast and a bath, and then marched off to the 7th Fusileer barracks, to try and discover an old friend and cousin. His kind invitation to stay a few days was not to be resisted; and saying that no man ought to pass by the rock without seeing it, I made up my mind to

Digitized by Google

remain a week with him, and see the lions. Accordingly the steamer, the Royal Tar, started without me; and to-day I dined with the 7th Fusileers, at the very best mess I ever sat down to in the service.

March 27th.—Most unluckily (my first in Gibraltar) it poured with rain so much the whole day, that beyond a solitary visit to Sir A. Woodford, the Governor, and an invite to dine with him to-morrow, nothing could be done.

March 28th.—Again a villanously rainy day; which is the more unlucky, as every one says such a thing is scarcely known in Gibraltar; and the only thing I had to comfort me was a dinner at the Governor's.

March 29th.—Rode out with several of the 7th, to look at the scene of a steeple-chase which is to be run for to-morrow, about three miles from the fortress, in Spain, beyond the neutral ground. The jumps appeared to me rather small, but

Digitized by Google

every one agrees that they are quite large enough for the horses that have to go over them.

Nothing can be finer than the view of this extraordinary spot from the neutral ground, where alone you see how impregnable the place is.

March 30th. — Got up, as usual, at twelve, breakfasted, and at one started off to see this grand steeple-chase. The nags started about three, some twelve or fourteen in number; and however small I might before have thought the fences, the event proved that they were quite large enough for the occasion. At the first fence a poor fellow of the name of Sullivan, of the 48th, had a desperate fall, and was taken home insensible. At a large ditch, some twelve feet wide, I counted four in together; and, as usual, a horse scarcely known, called Mulatto, came in first.

After the business of the day was over we cantered over the neutral ground home.

March 31st. — Rained the whole day.

Digitized by Google

Every one most anxious for poor young Sullivan, who has continued in the same state, and of whom the doctors think very badly. Gibraltar, after a time, becomes but a dull quarter; the eternal redcoats, the small society, with nothing to change the scene but the neutral ground, soon bore its residents to death; and I am sure many would as soon be quartered in India, with all its hórrors of jungle-fever and what not, as in this celebrated fortress.

Poor Sullivan died during the night, and is to be buried to-morrow. Spent this my last day in Gibraltar in going round the wonderful excavations and galleries in the rock filled with cannon, which are well worth seeing, and which make Gibraltar on this side totally impregnable,—the only way it can be approached on the land side being by a causeway, on which 600 cannon play; and in the evening dined again at a large party at the Governor's, who has been, as usual, most kind and hospitable.

Digitized by Google

April 1st.—Left Gibraltar this evening, having first had an early dinner at the 7th mess, and bade good-by to Lacy and all my old chums I had met there. Went on board, at sunset, one of the Peninsular Steam-packet Company's ships, Royal Adelaide, of which my present impressions are by no means favourable. Got under way just before dark, having been before introduced to one or two of my fellow-passengers, one of whom happens to be an old school companion.

Had a stormy and disagreeable night, with a heavy head sea and wind against us, which prevented our arriving at Cadiz till three the following afternoon.

Stayed about three hours here, saw the town, which does not seem to contain much worth seeing, save the new cathedral, which has been built almost entirely by the present bishop, at his own expense. Started at half-past five, with several additional passengers, *en route* for Lisbon.

April 2d.—Day stormy and most dis-

Digitized by Google

agreeable. Every body ill. The high land of Portugal in sight the whole day; but, unfortunately, though close to it, the rain and mist prevent one's seeing it at all distinctly.

April 3d.—Coasting along the coast of Portugal the whole day, and after dark sighted the lights near the entrance of the Tagus. Luckily the night was sufficiently clear for us to run into this very dangerous place, and we came to an anchor at one this morning, under Belem Castle, alongside a large Portuguese frigate, the guard-ship of the port of Lisbon.

At daylight, ran up the river to the custom-house at Lisbon. Nothing can be prettier than the sail up the Tagus, or more picturesque than the exterior of the town, with the heights on the opposite side, and the beautiful river covered with shipping. Started off immediately after breakfast to Madame de Belem's English hotel, where we ordered luncheon; that is to say, myself, and two others of

Digitized by Google

our party; and then marched off to see the mosaics in the church of St. Rogue, which are well worth seeing; and afterwards to the aqueduct which supplies the city with water. After eating we got horses and galloped three miles out to the palace of the Ajujah; a handsome building, began by Don Pedro, and still unfinished. There are some very fine ancient tapestries inside, but the effect of both them and the architecture is entirely spoiled by a villanous set of bad paintings, which cover the walls of the whole building in the very worst possible style and taste. Altogether we were much disappointed in the place, and cantered home quite satisfied with what we had seen of Lisbon.

April 4th.—Got under way again at five this evening, and ran down the river to sea, having taken on board a large selection of Spanish deck-passengers for Vigo.

April 5th and 6th. — Strong north-east winds against us the whole day, with

Digitized by Google

a very heavy sea. The coast of Portugal in sight.—Ran on against the same wind and sea as yesterday, passing some beautiful country on the Portuguese and Spanish coasts. About three passed the entrance to the river Minho, the boundary between Spain and Portugal; and at seven entered Vigo Bay, a noble and beautiful harbour, large enough to contain the united navies of Europe.

Our bad luck has followed us. Just as we entered the mouth of the harbour a sudden stop told us that something was wrong, and it soon came out that our larboard engine had broke, and in a way which it will require three weeks to mend in England; so that, unless we get a fair wind and smooth sea, we shall have to wait here a week for the next steamer, the Braganza, to take us on.

April 7th.—Took the mails on board and tried to make way with our one engine, but found wind and sea too strong for us, and we again returned into port.

Digitized by Google

Did not again go to the same spot, but this time anchored close to the jetty, for the convenience of landing to-morrow.

April 8th.—Landed and inspected the town of Vigo, a small, though not very dirty place. A party of five of us ascended to the castle, which commands a noble view of this part of Gallicia, but contains nothing beyond a few very old and good-for-nothing guns. We afterwards walked a little way into the country, but both wind and dust made it too disagreeable for pleasure, and we soon returned on board. Dined, and walked the deck for the rest of the evening, longing for the wind to change, but without much hope of any such luck.

April 9th.—Got under way, in spite of wind and tide against us, and found that our fine vessel made, in spite of all things against her, seven knots an hour with one engine. Ran along the coast, passing some very beautiful country and much that was quite the contrary. Found, on

Digitized by Google

reaching Cape Finisterre, that the wind and sea were too much for us, and the captain accordingly determined to go up the bay of Corcubion and remain there until it should moderate. We anchored alongside two other vessels soon after dark, near two large villages.

April 10*th.*—The captain went on shore this morning to the fine harbour near this, and succeeded in procuring fresh provisions and three bullocks; which the English agent himself brought off, giving us the pleasure of his company at dinner.

At midnight the captain again got under way, and in the course of three hours we were fairly in the Bay of Biscay. The much-dreaded Bay of Biscay, in this instance, proved as smooth as glass; we ran across it most pleasantly, and on the 12th came in sight of the white cliffs of England, and the following day landed in Falmouth harbour, and I once more had the inexpressible pleasure of seeing my

Digitized by Google

native land, after an absence of five years.*

* The following rough note of my expenses from Bombay to Falmouth may be worth insertion, as a hint to future travellers:—

	£.	s.
From Bombay to Suez	80	0
Stewards	1	0
Crossing Desert to Thebes	3	0
Share of Expenses to Cairo	7	10
Passage down and living at Alexandria	9	15
From Alexandria to Malta	12	0
Stewards	0	10
In Quarantine	18	18
Malta to Gibraltar	13	0
Stewards	0	10
At Gibraltar	6	0
To Falmouth	18	0
Stewards	1	0
	£171	3

THE END.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY MOYES AND BARCLAY, CASTLE STREET,
LEICESTER SQUARE.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

N.T.

SW

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google